

SO, AH... I'M  
GUESSING YOU HAVE  
QUESTIONS...

SOOOO MANY. AND IF  
YOU'RE OKAY WITH ME  
ASKING THEM, I REALLY  
REALLY WANT TO ASK  
THEM SOMETIME.

LIKE, REALLY  
WANT TO.

BUT NOT  
NOW?

NOW I NEED TO  
REMEMBER THAT THERE  
WAS A REASON I  
FOLLOWED YOU INTO  
THAT STAIRWELL!

FOLLOWED? YOU DIDN'T  
JUST HAPPEN TO BE THERE?

NO, I... NEEDED  
TO TALK TO YOU.  
ABOUT SUSAN.

SUSAN? YOU  
KNOW SUSAN?

SORT OF? WE HAVE A COUPLE  
CLASSES TOGETHER, AND LIKE I  
SAID, I WATCH YOUR REVIEW  
SHOW. SHE SEEMS COOL...

BUT I WANTED TO TALK  
BECAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE TOM,  
MY MANIPULATIVE EX-BOYFRIEND,  
IS TRYING TO MANIPULATE SUSAN  
INTO ASKING HIM OUT.

MANIPULATE SUSAN?

MWUH-HAHAAAAA!

DATE ME, OR I WILL KICK ALL OF THE PUPPIES!

ARF!

Woof!

I DON'T THINK SO.

HE'S DOOMED.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! TOM IS SNEAKY! HE TREATS EVERYTHING LIKE IT'S A CHESS GAME, AND HE LIKES MAKING PEOPLE DO WHAT HE WANTS WHILE THINKING IT WAS THEIR IDEA!

"IT'S LIKE, YOU COULD HAVE A SANDWICH? AND HE'LL WANT TO EAT THE SANDWICH, BUT HE WON'T ASK YOU FOR IT."

"INSTEAD, HE'LL SAY OR DO SOMETHING SNEAKY THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM THE SANDWICH, ALL WHILE THINKING IT WAS YOUR IDEA."

AND THEN? HE EATS YOUR SANDWICH.

KRAK-A-THOON

OKAY... SO HE'S A CHESS PLAYING JERK. I STILL DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING ANYWHERE WITH SUSAN.

I DON'T KNOW HER LIKE YOU DO, BUT I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE. I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR THEM YESTERDAY BECAUSE WE WERE IN A SMALL CLASSROOM AND I WAS EAVESDROPPING, AND—

HE'S ALREADY TALKED TO HER?

SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN DATING, OR PHYSICAL CONTACT, OR CHESS.

YEAH, SUSAN WAS UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, AND TOM SWOOPED IN TO CHEER HER UP.

THAT BASTARD. WAIT, SUSAN WAS UPSET?

YEAH, SOMETHING ABOUT PEOPLE NOT LIKING HER? TOM SAID PEOPLE DO LIKE HER, BUT SHE'S INTIMIDATING.

I THOUGHT MAYBE HE REALLY WAS JUST BEING NICE..

BUT THEN HE SUDDENLY WALKED AWAY AND SAID HE WOULDN'T "BOther HER" AGAIN AFTER HE'D CLEARLY MADE HER LIKE HIM.

SHE LIKES... WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

TO MAKE HER TAKE THE INITIATIVE. INSTEAD OF ASKING HER IF SHE'D LIKE TO TALK MORE LATER, HE MANIPULATED HER INTO ASKING. IT'S WHAT HE DOES.

AND HIS GOAL IS FOR HER TO ASK HIM OUT.

I ASSUME SO. AMONG OTHER THINGS.

...I MIGHT HAVE TO HURT THIS GUY.

OKAY, SO... WHAT  
WERE YOU SAYING BEFORE  
THE TIMEOUT?

HUH? OH, YEAH.  
UH... "WOULD TALK  
TO SUSAN MYSELF,  
BUT ME BIASED  
CRAZY EX, RAR."

THAT MAKES  
SENSE, BUT...

AREN'T  
I GOING TO  
HAVE TO TELL  
HER WHO I  
HEARD THIS  
FROM  
ANYWAY?



TELL SUSAN I  
TOLD YOU THIS, EVEN  
THOUGH I THOUGHT  
YOU LIKED HER.

TELL... WHAT?  
WHY WOULD I  
DO THAT?

BEEEEE--CAUSE...

I...  
LIKE  
YOU.



YOU... LIKE ME?

THAT SHOULD BE ALL YOU  
NEED I'M GOING TO GO HIDE  
FOREVER NOW BYE

WAIT!



EVEN AFTER YOU  
SAW ME... YOU KNOW...  
LIKE THAT?

ESPECIALLY AFTER  
THAT, I MEAN... MAYBE?

AND YOU TOLD ME ALL OF  
THIS STUFF ANYWAY, ALL WHILE  
ASSUMING I WANTED TO BE WITH  
SUSAN, BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT  
WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.



I... YEAH, I  
GUESS I DID.

I... I THINK I  
LIKE YOU, TOO.



YOU DO?

YEAH, I DO. I  
MEAN, WE SHOULD  
GET TO KNOW EACH  
OTHER BETTER..  
BUT... WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO, UM...

SHOOT. IS IT  
WRONG FOR ME  
TO ASK YOU OUT  
RIGHT NOW?

I'M NOT SURE.  
IT IS SORT OF  
WEIRD TIMING.

I DID JUST  
BREAK UP WITH  
SARAH A COUPLE  
WEEKS AGO...

AND WE SHOULD  
PROBABLY BE FOCUSING  
ON SUSAN... PLUS, YOU  
HAVEN'T CONFIRMED  
THAT I'M TELLING THE  
TRUTH YET...

YOU ARE  
TELLING THE  
TRUTH, AREN'T  
YOU?

YES! YOU'D KNOW IF I  
WASN'T. I'M A HORRIBLE  
ACTOR! BUUUT WE JUST  
MET, SO YOU WOULDN'T  
KNOW THAT, SO...

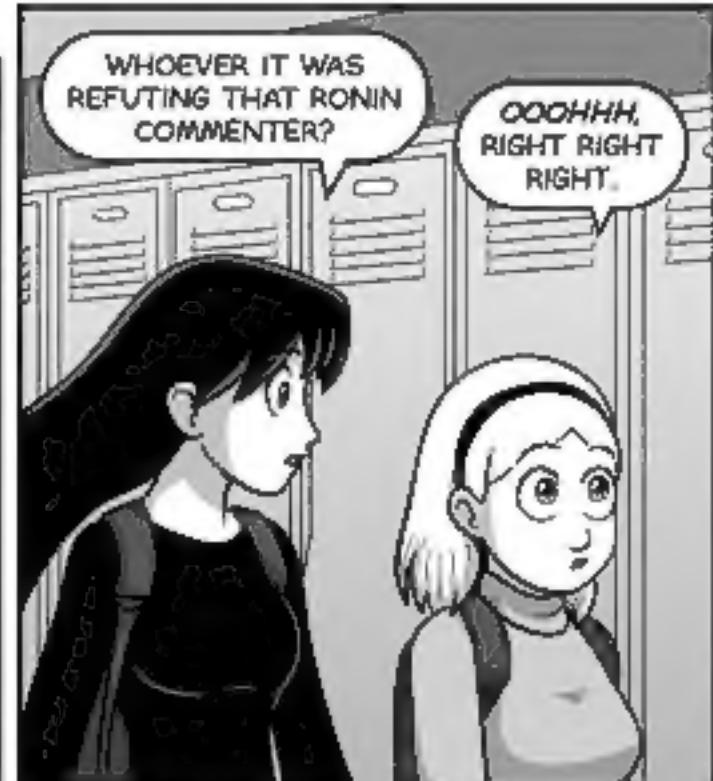
YEAH, NOW'S PROBABLY  
NOT THE "RIGHT TIME"  
TO ASK YOU OUT...

PROBABLY  
NOT, NO...

WELL, I'M GONNA DO  
IT ANYWAY. WANNA GO  
OUT SOMETIME?

YES/ YES  
I DO.

Shortly after Elliot and Ashley went upstairs...



SUSAN! GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING, TOM.

I'M SORRY I MISSED YOU ONLINE LAST NIGHT.

NO PROBLEM. I, UH... I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.



CERTAINLY! WHAT'S UP?

WELL, AH... UGH. THIS IS EMBARRASSING. I'M NOT USED TO THIS SORT OF THING.

OHP AND WHAT SORT OF THING IS THAT?

I'M PROBABLY ABOUT TO SOUND SO STUPID. BUT HERE I GO. I... WANT TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE WRONG IMPRESSION YESTERDAY.



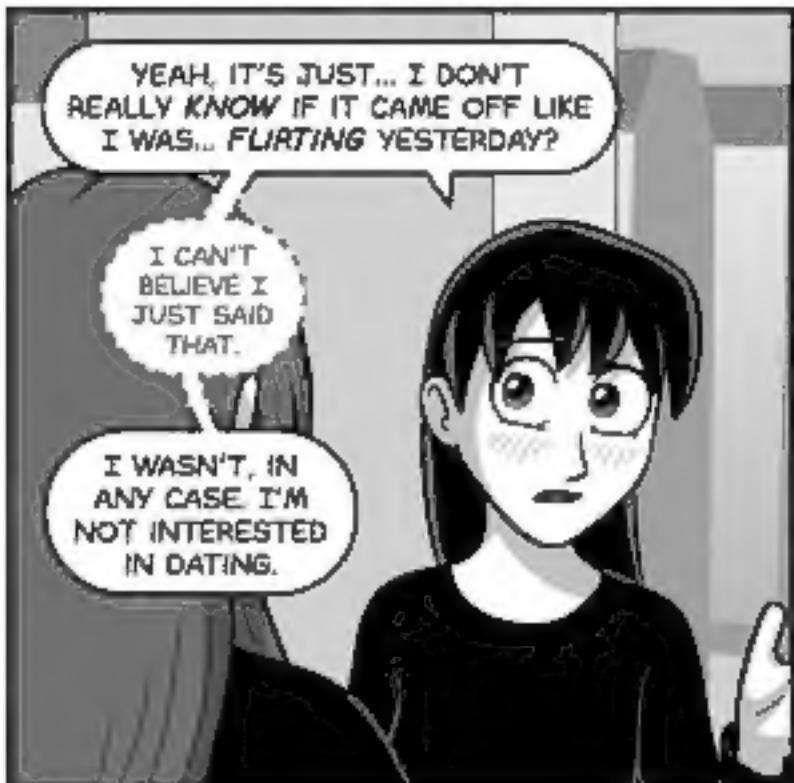
UH... I'M SORRY, "WRONG IMPRESSION?"

YEAH, IT'S JUST... I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF IT CAME OFF LIKE I WAS... FLIRTING YESTERDAY?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT.

I WASN'T, IN ANY CASE I'M NOT INTERESTED IN DATING.

WHAT.



I KNOW, I MUST SOUND STUPID. AND CONCEITED. AND MAYBE SOME OTHER THINGS. BUT I WANT TO BE SURE I'M NOT SENDING MIXED SIGNALS.

OR MAYBE I WASN'T SENDING MIXED SIGNALS BEFORE, AND NOW MAYBE I AM? UM... I MENTIONED I'M NOT USED TO THIS?

YOU JUST WANT TO BE FRIENDS.

YES! WELL, I'D LIKE TO TALK SOME MORE, AT LEAST. I HOPE YOU DIDN'T THINK...

I ASSUMED NOTHING OF THE SORT.

OH, GOOD.

I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER. WE CAN ALWAYS DECIDE IF WE WANT TO DATE LATER.

I'M SORRY?

I'D LIKE TO TALK MORE, BUT I'M REALLY NOT LOOKING FOR ROMANCE. IF YOU ARE...

WELL, NO, I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.

NOT AT ALL! I'M JUST ACKNOWLEDGING THE POSSIBILITY OF FEELINGS GROWING FROM FRIENDSHIP TO MORE LATER.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO DATE A FRIEND, AND FRIENDSHIP IS ALL I'M LOOKING FOR RIGHT NOW. I WON'T WANT TO DATE YOU LATER.

PERHAPS, BUT YOU CAN'T TRULY PREDICT HOW YOU'LL FEEL IN--

FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DATE ME, YOU SEEM REALLY DETERMINED TO KEEP THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN.

I'M SORRY. I'M THE ONE BEING STUPID. IT'S JUST, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT US GOING OUT BEFORE, AND NOW...

IT'S STUPID, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL REJECTED.

I SUPPOSE I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT I'M NOT REJECTING YOU.

I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED... IN...

IN... WHAT?

TOM? WHY DID YOU APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING ME LAST NIGHT?

I WASN'T LOGGED IN TO THE MESSENGER LAST NIGHT.

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW I WAS? I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING TO BE.

YOU SENT ME YOUR PERSONAL SCREEN NAME. I JUST ASSUMED...

YOU SAID, WITHOUT HESITATION, "I'M SORRY I MISSED YOU". NO "IF", NO QUESTION IF YOU HAD... YOU WERE CERTAIN. YOU WERE ONLINE.

THAT'S ABSURD. HAD I BEEN, YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN MY--

I AM AWARE OF INVISIBLE MODE.

UH...

OKAY YES, IT'S TRUE I WAS  
ONLINE. BUT I WAS NERVOUS. I  
WANTED TO TALK, BUT...

YEAH,  
THAT'S BULL

EXCUSE  
ME?!

YOU'VE BEEN NOTHING  
BUT CONFIDENT WITH  
ME, WHICH BEGS THE  
QUESTION:

WHY DID YOU  
SUDDENLY WALK  
AWAY FROM ME  
YESTERDAY?

I WAS WORRIED  
I WAS BOTHERING  
YOU!

BOTHERING ME?  
I WAS SMILING AT  
YOU! YOU'RE THE  
WORST LIAR EVER!

I AM A  
FANTASTIC  
LIAR!

NOT WHEN  
A MARK GOES  
OFF-SCRIPT  
YOU'RE NOT





YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY  
WRONG PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE  
LIES A LITTLE AND IS SELECTIVE  
OF WHAT THEY SHARE FOR ONE  
REASON OR ANOTHER..

BUT MOST  
PEOPLE ARE AT  
LEAST TRYING  
TO BE GOOD.

SPARING FEELINGS. PROTECTING  
THEMSELVES OR OTHERS. BEING  
CAREFUL BECAUSE THEY KNOW A TOPIC  
IS UPSETTING. SIMPLY NOT WANTING  
TO SHARE SOMETHING PRIVATE.

YOU ON THE OTHER HAND, KNEW I  
WOULD SAY NO TO DATING, AND INSTEAD OF  
RESPECTING MY WISHES, YOU ATTEMPTED TO  
MANIPULATE ME TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED

YOU PUT  
YOUR OWN  
DESIRSES FIRST,  
TREATED MY  
FEELINGS LIKE  
THEY WERE SOME  
SORT OF GAME,  
AND YOU'VE  
APPARENTLY  
DONE IT  
BEFORE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT'S TRULY SAD? WE  
COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS.  
WE STILL COULD HAVE HAD  
SOMETHING MEANINGFUL,  
BUT NOW?

I DON'T TRUST  
YOU. I SUSPECT  
MANY PEOPLE  
DON'T TRUST  
YOU

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING, TOM, AND YOU WILL  
GROW OLD, SAD, AND ALONE.  
AND WONDERING WHY SO MANY  
PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU

I SUGGEST YOU STRIVE  
FOR SOMETHING BETTER.

HURTING TOM WOULD JUST MAKE YOU LOOK JEALOUS AND HURT YOUR CHANCES WITH SUSAN. I'M TELLING YOU THIS SO YOU CAN TALK TO HER.

THAT WAS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING I DON'T LIKE HIM. I WASN'T SERIOUSLY GOING TO--

WAIT JEALOUS?

CHANCES?



I'D TALK TO HER MYSELF BUT I'M THE BIASED "CRAZY EX". HECK I WOULDN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO ME. I CAN'T EXPECT HER TO--

WAIT WAIT WAIT WHAT CHANCES? WHAT JEALOUSY?

YOU AND SUSAN. YOU LIKE HER, RIGHT?

AS A FRIEND, SURE. BUT I DON'T WANT TO DATE HER.



OH, I'M SORRY IT'S JUST I GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM YOUR SHOW THAT MAYBE... YOU KNOW...

SUSAN'S GREAT AND YEAH, SHE'S ATTRACTIVE. BUT I REALLY LIKE THE FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE NOW

SHE'S ALSO BEST FRIENDS WITH MY EX-GIRLFRIEND, SARAH WHO I'M STILL GOOD FRIENDS WITH. AND SUSAN'S NOT INTERESTED IN DATING PEOPLE

SUSAN AND I AREN'T HAPPENING

THAT'S...

INTERESTING.



# SLUMP



I'M GUESSING IT  
DIDN'T GO WELL.  
WHAT WITH THE  
YELLING AND ALL.

I DIDN'T KNOW  
HER AS WELL AS I  
THOUGHT I DID.  
SHE'S CHANGED.



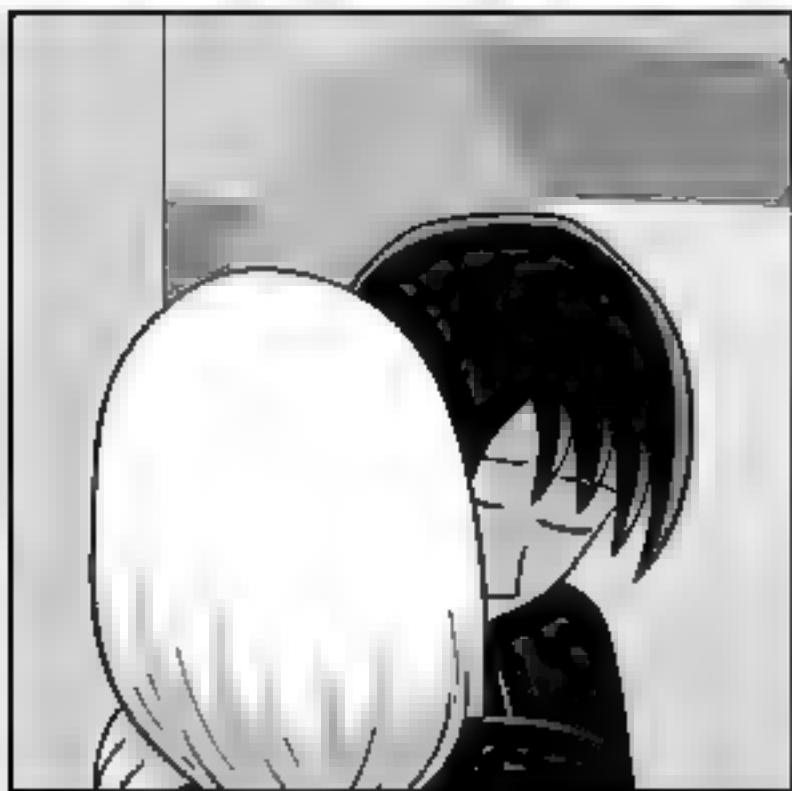
HAS SHE,  
NOW?

SHE IS NO LONGER  
THE HAMMER QUEEN.  
SHE IS SOMETHING  
MORE NOW.



YOU'RE  
WEIRD MAN





ARE YOU  
SURE ABOUT  
THIS?

I'M GONNA HAVE TO  
MENTION YOU ANYWAY MY GUT  
TELLS ME IT'LL BE BETTER IF  
SUSAN HEARS IT FROM YOU

GRANTED. MY GUT ALSO KEEPS  
TELLING ME THAT HOT WINGS ARE  
A GOOD IDEA. BUT I'M GONNA  
TRUST IT ON THIS ONE



DO YOU  
THINK I  
SHOULD'VE  
DONE THAT  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE?

HECK NO. THEN  
WE WOULDN'T  
HAVE TALKED.

THERE'S  
ELLIOT!

ABOUT TIME! WHAT  
TOOK HIM SO



WAIT WHO'S THAT GIRL WITH  
HIM? WHY WOULD HE COME BACK  
FROM DOING THAT WITH...

'GASP!' WHAT IF HE CAN  
MAKE DUPLICATES OF HIS  
FEMALE FORMS NOW?

WOULDN'T  
BE THE FIRST  
TIME



THERE SHE IS! OKAY UML WHAT SHOULD WE DO EXACTLY?

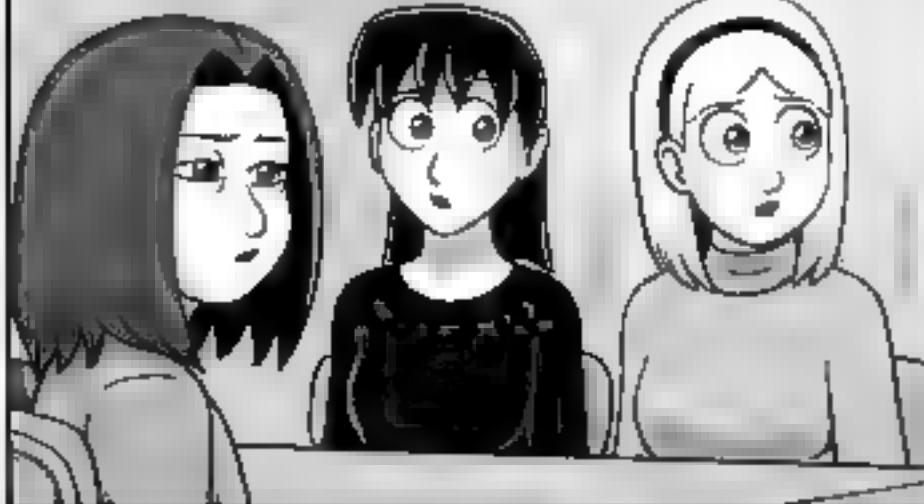
WELL WE'RE GOING TO TALK TO SUSAN. RIGHT?



DID SHE JUST POINT AT US?

THAT'S WEIRD. IF EITHER OF THEM WERE TO POINT AT JS, I'D EXPECT ELLIOT

WHAT'S HE DOING WITH HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?



I MEAN, SHE'S NOT ALONE DO WE ASK TO SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

I DUNNO THE LAST OF THE BUSES ARE PROBABLY ARRIVING

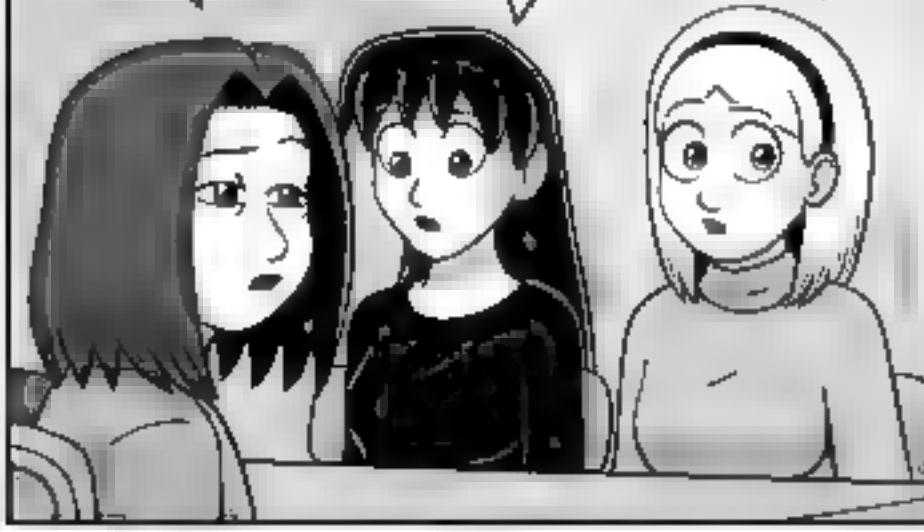


THIS PLACE IS ABOUT TO BE PACKED.

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

IT PROBABLY HAS TO DO WITH THE REVIEW SHOW, GIVEN HER POINTING

THEY LOOKED PRETTY HAPPY WALKING INTO THE CAFETERIA TOGETHER...



DO YOU THINK SHE WOULD MIND BEING TOLD IN FRONT OF THEM?

TO BE HONEST? I'M NOT SURE.

THAT'S PROBABLY IT SHE'S A FAN WHO RAN INTO ELLIOT AND ISN'T SURE WHETHER SHE SHOULD BUG YOU TOO.

WELL SHE SHOULD. ASSUMING IT IS THAT I'M WAVING THEM OVER.

SHE'S WAVING/ SHOULD WE RUN?!

WHY WOULD WE RUN?



I DON'T KNOW! I'M NERVOUS!

UM... HELLO, SUSAN!  
I'M ASHLEY AND THIS  
IS ELIJOT

OH, BUT OF COURSE YOU KNOW  
THAT. I MEAN, HIM. YOU KNOW HIM.  
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, THOUGH WE  
DO HAVE SOME CLASSES TOGETHER.  
SO MAYBE YOU DO?

YEE-ES. I'VE SEEN  
YOU AROUND HELLO

HELLO! UM... THIS IS A  
LITTLE AWKWARD BUT

I SAW YOU TALKING  
TO TOM YESTERDAY  
AND. AND I FELT I  
SHOULD WARN YOU..

THAT HE'S A DECEPTIVE  
JERK WHO'S A BIT FULL  
OF HIMSELF?

BLINKS

WELL, THAT  
WAS EASIER THAN I  
THOUGHT IT'D BE.

IS THAT  
WHO YOU WERE  
TALKING TO?

SIGH: YES, IT'S COMPLICATED  
ABRIDGED VERSION: HE WANTED  
TO DATE ME. KNEW I'D SAY NO  
AND TRIED TO MANIPULATE ME  
INTO ASKING HIM OUT ANYWAY

BEFORE I REALIZED  
THAT I THOUGHT HE MIGHT  
BE NICE TO TALK TO, BUT I  
WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR  
THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO DATE  
HIM OR ANYONE ELSE. SO I  
DID, AND HE IMPLDED.

YOU... FIGURED  
HIM OUT IN LESS  
THAN A DAY?

HE MADE IT  
PRETTY EASY

I DATED  
HIM FOR TWO  
MONTHS.

YOU MUST  
THINK I'M  
AN IDIOT...

I DO NOT  
THINK YOU'RE  
AN IDIOT!

EEEP!

SUSAN!

I'M SORRY THAT  
SOUNDED ABOUT TEN  
THOUSAND TIMES  
ANGRIER THAN I HAD  
INTENDED.

LISTEN.  
ASHLEY WAS  
IT?

YES?

PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE  
TO TREACHERY. IT DOESN'T  
MAKE YOU AN IDIOT IF TOM  
DECEIVED YOU. IT MAKES  
HIM A JERK.

THERE WERE  
CLUES THAT  
HE WAS LYING  
TO ME

I SHOULD  
HAVE--

YOU ARE  
NOT TO BLAME  
THE PERSON  
WHO LIED TO  
YOU IS!

THEY'RE THE JERK! THEY'RE  
THE IDIOT FOR LYING AND NOT  
HAVING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS!  
THAT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!

SO COO!

THANK YOU



YOU THINK THEY  
LIKE EACH OTHER?

YEAH. LIKE LIKE-LIKE!  
THEY JUST HAD THAT  
VIBE, YOU KNOW?

YEAH, I GOT THAT,  
TOO. WHICH IS WEIRD.  
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM  
WITH HER BEFORE.

WE SHOULD  
TELL HIM TO ASK  
HER OUT

WE SHOULD  
WHAT?

YOU KNOW ENCOURAGE  
HIM: I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE  
A MOVE IF WE DON'T

AND YOU'D  
BE OKAY WITH  
THAT?

WELL. YEAH. I'VE GOT  
MIXED FEELINGS, BUT I  
WANT US TO MOVE ON.

I'M GONNA MAKE LIKE  
GRACE AND FOCUS ON  
POSITIVE FEELINGS AND  
WHAT'S FOR THE BEST!

PLUS, I WON'T  
HAVE TO FEEL  
GUILTY IF I MEET  
SOMEONE NEW

FOR  
THE  
BEST

ELLIOT, YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE  
BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN  
A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP  
RIGHT NOW AND I'M NOT  
SURE I EVER WILL BE.

PLEASE PUT  
YOUR LIFE ON HOLD  
WHILE I SORT OUT  
MY FEELINGS

THEY WILL  
DATE.

UM... GLAD  
YOU'RE ON  
BOARD?

SHOULD WE REALLY BE  
ENCOURAGING HIM WHILE  
HE'S STILL DEALING  
WITH YOU KNOW.



NICE USE OF  
SYMBOLISM. VERY  
UNUSPICIOUS.

ELLIOT HAS  
EXPERIENCE  
BEING CAREFUL  
ABOUT THAT



BOING!



YEAH, BUT WHAT  
IF THEY'RE ABOUT  
TO KISS OR SOME  
THING WHEN ALL  
OF A SUDDEN--



"BOING"?  
SERIOUSLY?

NOTHING LIKE THAT  
EVER HAPPENED WHILE  
I WAS DATING ELLIOT

I BET YOU TELL  
KIDS THERE'S NO  
SANTA, TOO.



YOU DIDN'T SERIOUSLY THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED WITH ME AND ELLIOT

I CHOSE TO BELIEVE THAT MANY SUDDEN TRANSFORMATIONS OCCURRED ALONG WITH A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIMENTATION.

AND I STILL CHOOSE TO! I CAN PICTURE IT CLEARLY..

OH NO YOU DON'T! IF YOU IMAGINE THAT, I'M GOING TO IMAGINE YOU WITH ELLIOT!

IF YOU IMAGINE THAT, THEN I'M GOING TO IMAGINE GRACE GETTING INVOLVED!

I'LL SEE YOUR GRACE AND RAISE YOU A JUSTIN!

WHATEVER! I'M GONNA START IMAGINING IT RIGHT NOW!

I WAS IMAGINING BEFORE YOU SAID YOU WERE IMAGINING!

WHAT ARE THEY ?

DON'T ASK

SO HOW DID YOU WIND UP TALKING WITH ASHLEY ABOUT TOM AND ME?

OH, WELL... SHE WAS WORRIED YOU'D THINK SHE WAS A BIASED EX-GIRLFRIEND. SO SHE DECIDED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT IT

SO SHE RAN INTO YOU AFTER YOU TOOK CARE OF YOU-KNOW-WHAT?

NOPE. DURING.



DURING?!

WHAT?!



YEAH. I WAS HIDING IN THE STAIRWELL, AND SHE SAW



IT'S OKAY THOUGH. SHE THINKS IT'S COOL.



WHY DID... THE STAIRWELL?

SHE. WHAT?!



I ALSO MIGHT HAVE ASKED HER OUT





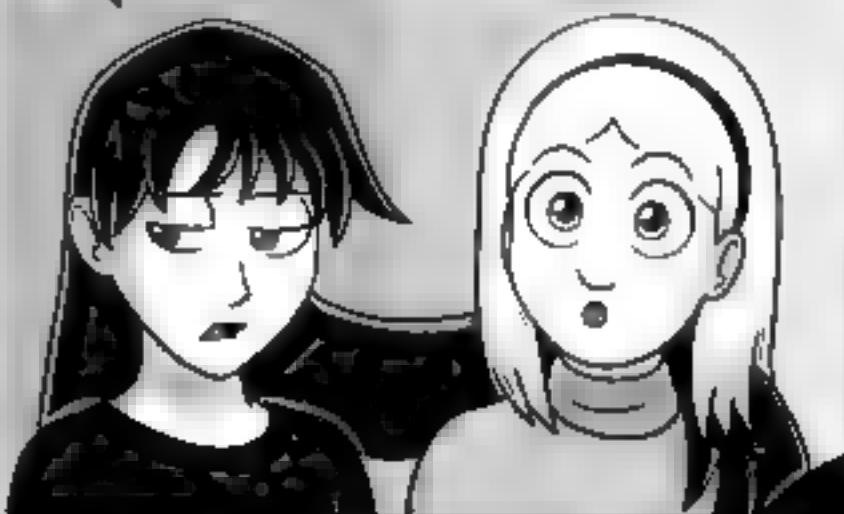
SUSAN? ARE YOU OKAY?

EWISH EWISH  
EWISH EWISH

I'M FINE I'M JUST FLABBERGASTED BY HOW SOME PEOPLE ASSUME ELLIOT AND I LIKE EACH OTHER THAT WAY

IT'S NOT SURPRISING. THE WAY PEOPLE ARE IT'S LIKE "A GIRL AND A BOY ARE FRIENDLY? THEY *TOTALLY* WANT TO SLEEP TOGETHER!"

IT'S NOT JUST BOYS AND GIRLS. PEOPLE WILL SHIP ANY TWO PEOPLE OR CHARACTERS WHO ARE CLOSE FRODO AND SAM, SHERLOCK AND WATSON, KIRK AND SPOCK...

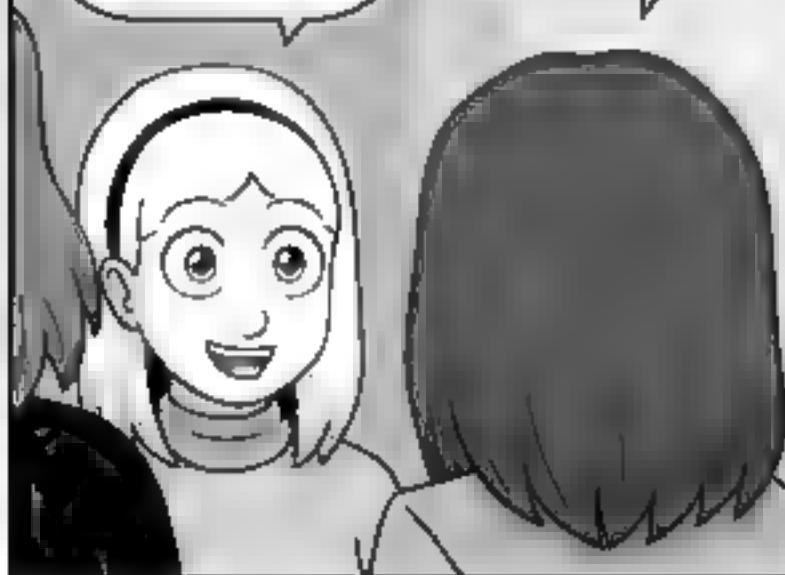


I'M BETTING SOME PEOPLE EVEN SHIPPED SISKEL AND EBERT, SO YEAH, IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

BEST TO JUST IGNORE THE SILLY PEOPLE.

WE'D BETTER BE MEANER TO EACH OTHER, TEDD. BEFORE PEOPLE START SHIPPING US!

YOU KIDDING? THAT'D JUST MAKE IT WORSE!



Soon after Ashley said "bye, everyone"

LIZ! LIZ  
LIZ LIZ!

IT'S MORNING.  
ON A SCHOOL DAY  
BEFORE THE FIRST  
CLASS, EVEN.

I KNOW I  
KNOW BUT  
LIZ!

WHAT?

I HAVE A  
DATE!

WELL, TECHNICALLY  
I WILL HAVE A DATE.  
WE HAVEN'T FIGURED  
OUT WHEN OR WHERE  
YET, BUT IT'S GONNA  
HAPPEN.

YAWN. THIS  
ISN'T ANOTHER  
JERK, IS IT  
ASHLEY?

NO, IT'S ELLIOT  
DUNKEL FROM THAT REVIEW  
SHOW I CAN NEVER GET  
YOU TO WATCH!

MOVIE AND TV  
REVIEWS BRAINWASH  
THE MASSES INTO  
BECOMING SHEEP

I'M PRETTY  
SURE HE'S  
NOT GOING TO  
TURN ME INTO  
A SHEEP

YOU KNOW I THINK  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
TO BE LEARNED FROM  
THIS MORNING.

"TOM IS A  
JACKASS"?

OH! MY MISTAKE I'M  
SORRY I OVERHEARD.

HEY!

WELL, YES, BUT I WAS TALKING  
ABOUT WELL, TALKING ABOUT  
STUFF BEING HONEST AND OPEN.

"THE TRUTH  
SHALL UNCOVER  
JACKASSES."

RIGHT YOU FIGURED TOM  
OUT BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO  
MAKE YOUR INTENTIONS CLEAR,  
AND ASHLEY GOT A DATE WITH  
ELLIOT BECAUSE SHE SHARED  
HER FEELINGS WITH HIM.

MEANWHILE, I'VE GOTTEN NOWHERE  
TRYING TO COVERTLY FIND OUT IF ANY OF THE  
BOYS WHO'VE BEEN TALKING TO ME MADE THAT  
COMMENT ABOUT ELLIOT BEING GAY

I SHOULD JUST  
TELL THEM I'M  
WORRIED SOMEONE  
WAS TRYING TO  
IMPRESS ME AND  
ASK THEM IF THEY  
KNOW WHO  
POSTED IT!

YOU REALIZE THAT IT WAS PROBABLY  
SOMEONE WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF WHO  
DOESN'T LIVE ANYWHERE NEAR HERE.

I HAVE DISMISSED THAT  
POSSIBILITY AS "BORING"

I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE THAT COMMENT AND OF COURSE THERE'S NO REASON TO SUSPECT ME BECAUSE OH RIGHT I NEVER TOLD YOU I'M GAY

I CAN THINK OF PEOPLE DUMB ENOUGH TO TRY THAT BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM DID IT ARE YOU SURE ELLIOT'S NOT GAY?

DARN.

I'M AT LEAST EIGHTY FIVE PERCENT CERTAIN.

I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE SUCH A THING EVEN IF I WASN'T GAY, BUT IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE ME IF SOMEONE WERE TO TRY AND GET YOU IN SUCH A WAY IN SPITE OF VARIOUS INHERENT FLAWS IN THE PLAN, THAT WOULD BE SO STUPID. THAT WOULD BE SO STUPID. I HOPE YOU TAKE SUCH A PLEASANTLY RESPECTFUL APPROACH. SOMETHING

THAT COMMENT  
"THEY'RE STILL FRIENDS, SO HE MUST BE GAY!"

I WAS IN A RELATIONSHIP WHEN I REALIZED I WAS GAY AND IT DID NOT END WITH US BEING FRIENDLY AND HAPPY WITH EACH OTHER. I CAN TELL YOU THAT!

SO I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU CAN THINK OF ANYONE WHO...

I DO KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO SAY DUMB THINGS WHILE TRYING TO SOUND SMART ONLINE. BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD POST THAT

CASUAL STATEMENT CONFIRMING HE'S GAY IN THREE TWO.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

A RESTAURANT SOUNDS  
GOOD BUT THERE'S A LOT WE  
COULDN'T TALK ABOUT THERE

THAT'S A GOOD POINT MAYBE  
DINNER, THEN GO BACK TO  
MY PLACE?

WHAT? OH! I-I  
DIDN'T MEAN...

WE DON'T HAVE  
TO TALK ABOUT THAT  
STUFF RIGHT AWAY

WHY ELLIOT!  
HOW FORWARD  
OF YOU!

I'M JUST  
TEASING  
YOU

OH.  
HEHE OF  
COURSE.

WHAT?

MOSTLY

GIGGLE:

HEY, TONY!  
I THINK ELLIOT  
DUNKEL'S GOT A  
DATE WITH A  
GIRL!

I TOLD YOU HE  
WAS STRAIGHT

YOU TOLD  
ME HE WAS  
GAY!

MAN. WHEN DO I EVER  
CALL SOMEONE GAY WHO'S  
ACTUALLY GAY? HONESTLY

I THOUGHT  
MAYBE SINCE  
YOU USED TO  
BE FRIENDS  
WITH HIM...

YEAH, IN LIKE THIRD GRADE  
OR SOMETHING. DON'T BLAME  
ME FOR THAT "OOH, LOOK AT  
ME, I'M SO SMART" COMMENT  
YOU POSTED "RONIN"



YOU ALREADY ASKED HER OUT?!

I KNOW IT HASN'T  
BEEN THAT LONG SINCE  
WE BROKE UP BUT

THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I MEANT  
THAT'S FINE.



HOW DO YOU GO FROM HER WANTING TO TALK  
ABOUT TOM AND ME, AND HER SEEING... THAT,  
TO YOU ASKING HER OUT?

AND I'M GUESSING  
SHE SAID "YES" IN  
SPITE OF..?

I THINK IN PART  
BECAUSE OF



WELL, AH.. THAT'S A  
BIT COMPLICATED...

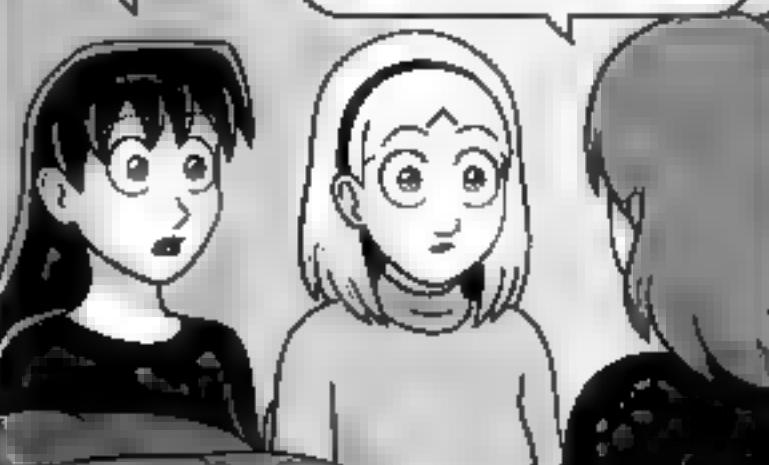


BECAUSE OF?

IN PART SHE ALREADY  
LIKED ME FROM THE SHOW

OH.. DOES  
SHE UM.. "SWING  
BOTH WAYS"?

SWING? WHAT SWING?

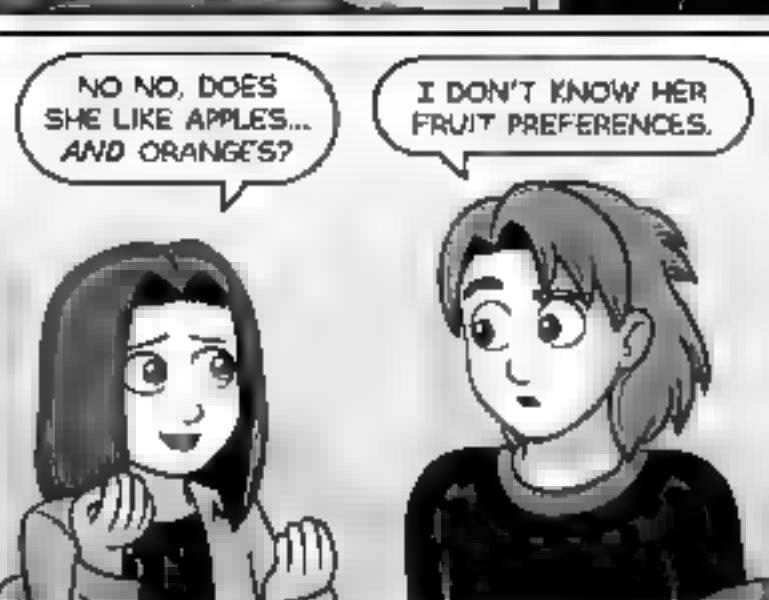


NO NO, DOES  
SHE LIKE APPLES...  
AND ORANGES?

I DON'T KNOW HER  
FRUIT PREFERENCES.

BISEXUAL.  
IS SHE  
BISEXUAL.

OH! I DUNNO. MAYBE?

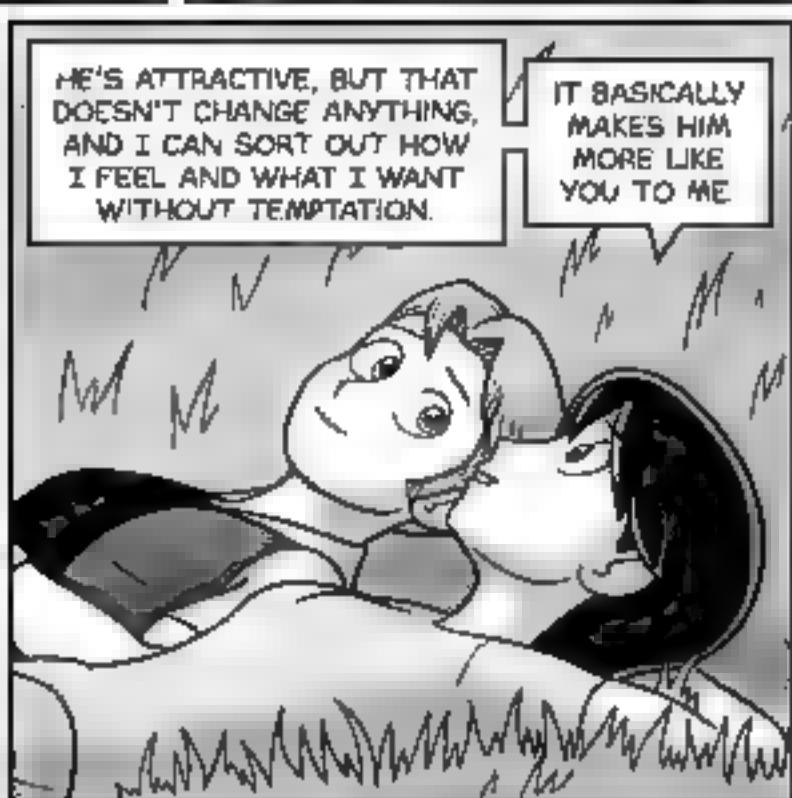




SOME GUY I THOUGHT COULD BE A NEW FRIEND TURNED OUT TO BE A PICK UP ARTIST AND ELLIOT ASKED OUT A CUTE GIRL WHO SEEMS COOL AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE BISEXUAL AND SHE KNOWS HE TURNS INTO A GIRL



A bit of more thorough recappy later



DON'T CHECK  
THE COMMENTS  
DON'T CHECK THE  
COMMENTS YOU'VE  
SAID ALL THERE IS  
TO SAY IT'S A  
WASTE OF TIME  
JUST GO TO SLEEP  
DON'T CHECK THE

DAMMIT

WAIT

A PRIVATE MESSAGE?  
WHO WOULD SEND ME  
A MESSAGE ON THIS  
SITE? I DON'T POST  
ANY VIDEOS..

IT'S FROM ELLIOT'S  
CHANNEL! COULD IT BE..?

YOU  
DON'T  
THINK I'M  
GAY WE  
SHOULD  
GO OUT

**SWISH**  
**SWISH**  
**SWISH**

DON'T BE  
STUPID. HE'S  
PROBABLY JUST  
THANKING ME  
FOR COMBATING  
STUPIDITY

STILL IT  
COULD BE AN  
OPENING FOR  
US TO TALK..

"HELLO.  
THIS IS  
SUSAN  
FROM..."

SUSAN?

A MESSAGE  
FROM SUSAN...



ACTUALLY I,  
UH, THINK SHE  
LOOKS ALMOST-  
IDENTICAL... TO  
YOU

WHAT?! NO SHE... OKAY,  
HER FACE IS MAYBE A  
LITTLE SIMILAR TO MINE  
BUT THAT HAIR IS TOTALLY  
A DIFFERENT COLOR.

YES! WELL, HE SAID  
"SISTER" BUT WHO ELSE  
COULD THAT MEAN?

NANASE?



YOU DON'T  
KNOW SHE IS.  
NOT FOR SURE.  
YOU DON'T

JUST BECAUSE THE  
EVIDENCE IS OVER-  
WHELMING DOESN'T...  
JUST READ IT



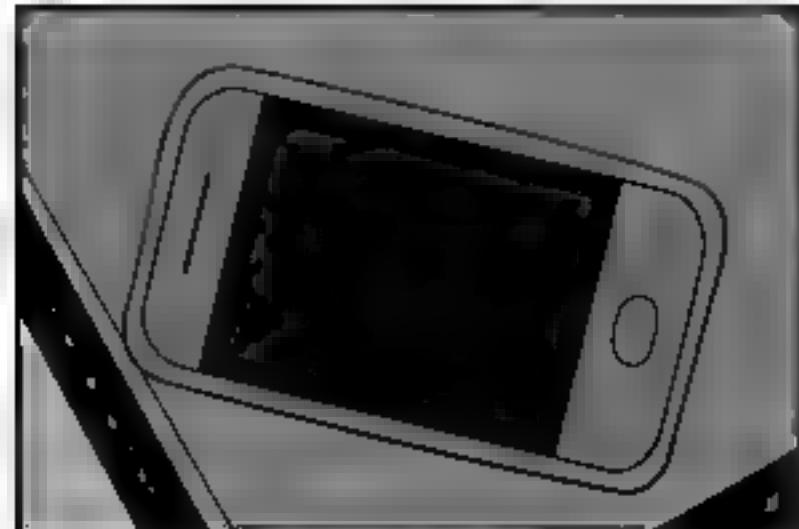
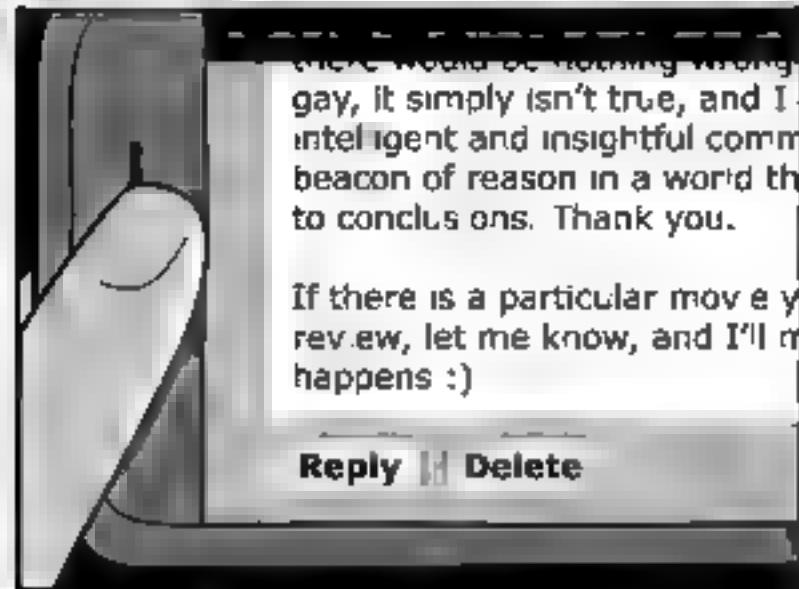
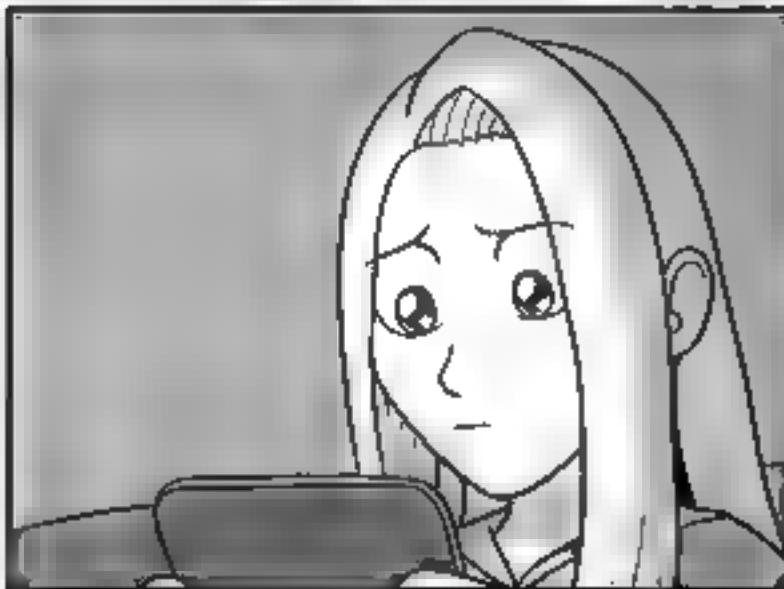
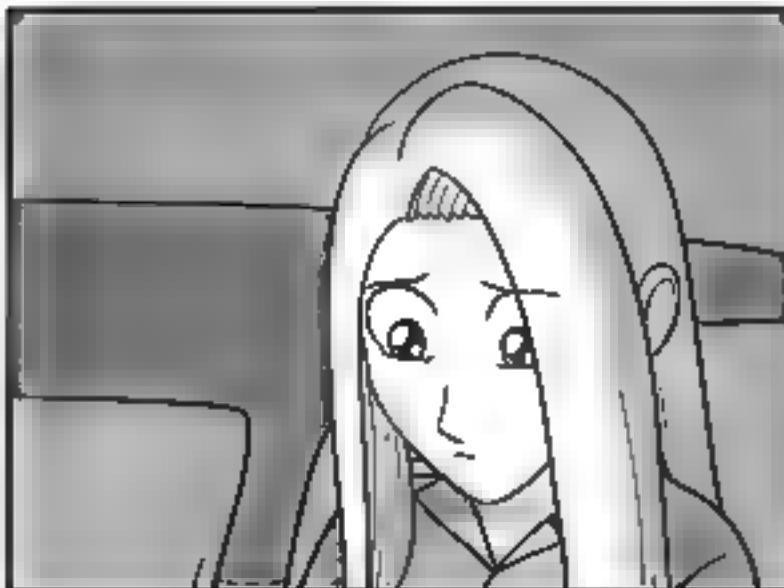
Hello. This is Susan from the review show. I'm sure you know which one I mean, though we should \*probably\* come up with a name for it at some point.

In any case, I wanted to thank you. While there would be nothing wrong with Eliot being gay, it simply isn't true, and I appreciate your intelligent and insightful comments. You are a beacon of reason in a world that likes to jump to conclusions. Thank you.

If there is a particular movie you'd like us to review, let me know, and I'll make sure it happens :)



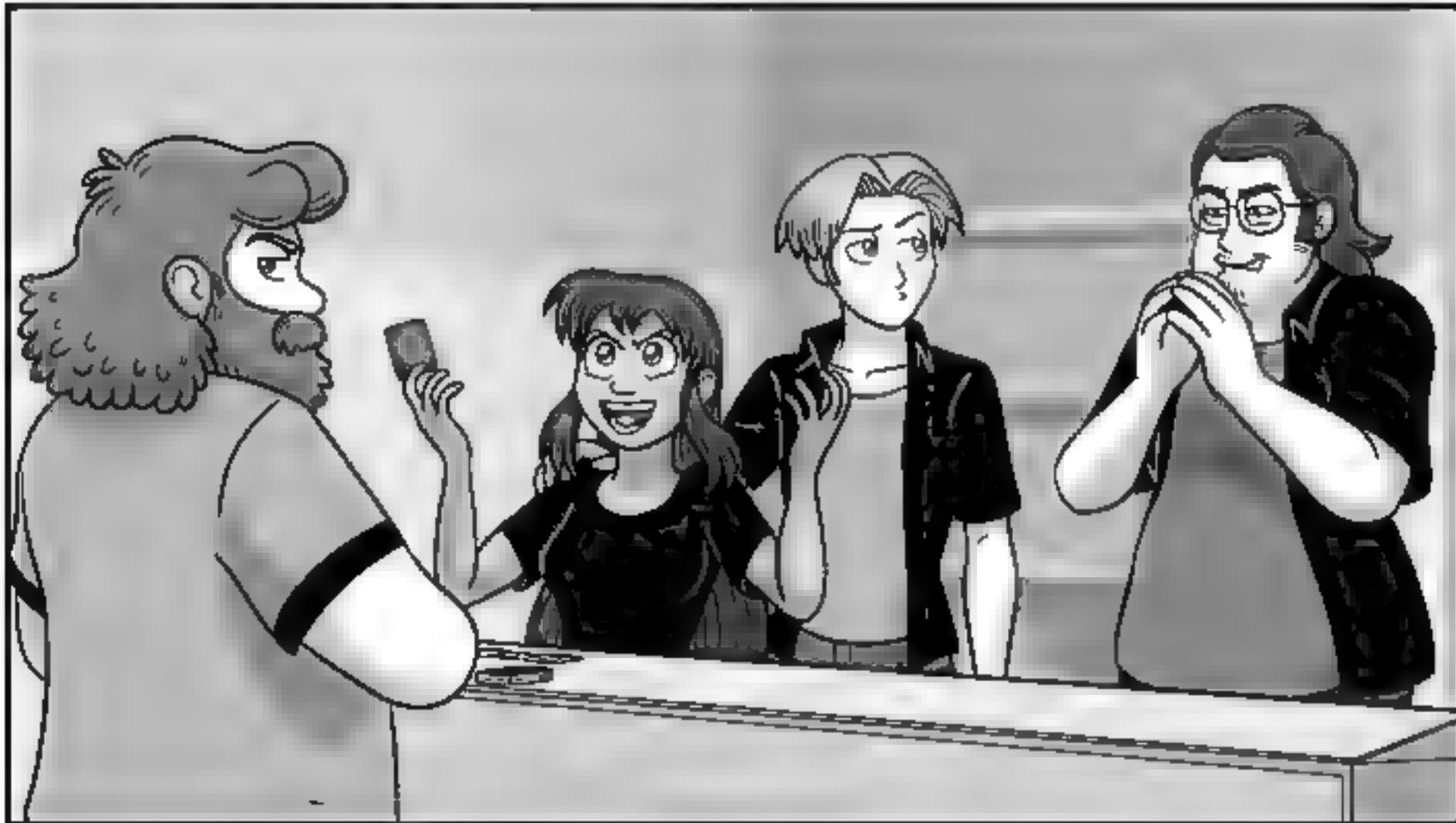
THIS IS  
FROM MY  
SISTER.



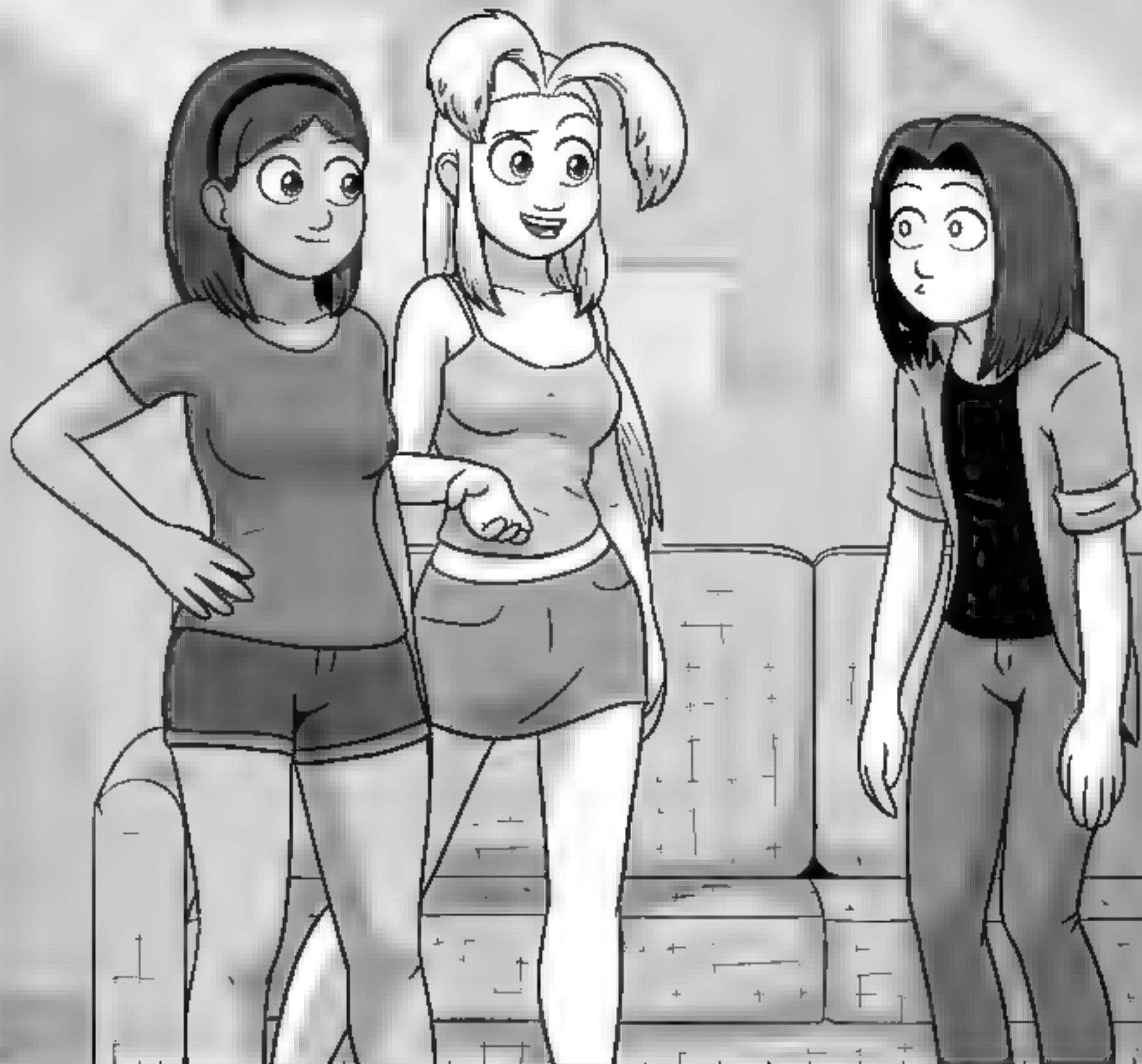
Identity - The end

Friday will be a sketchbook entry Monday? SOMETHING ELSE

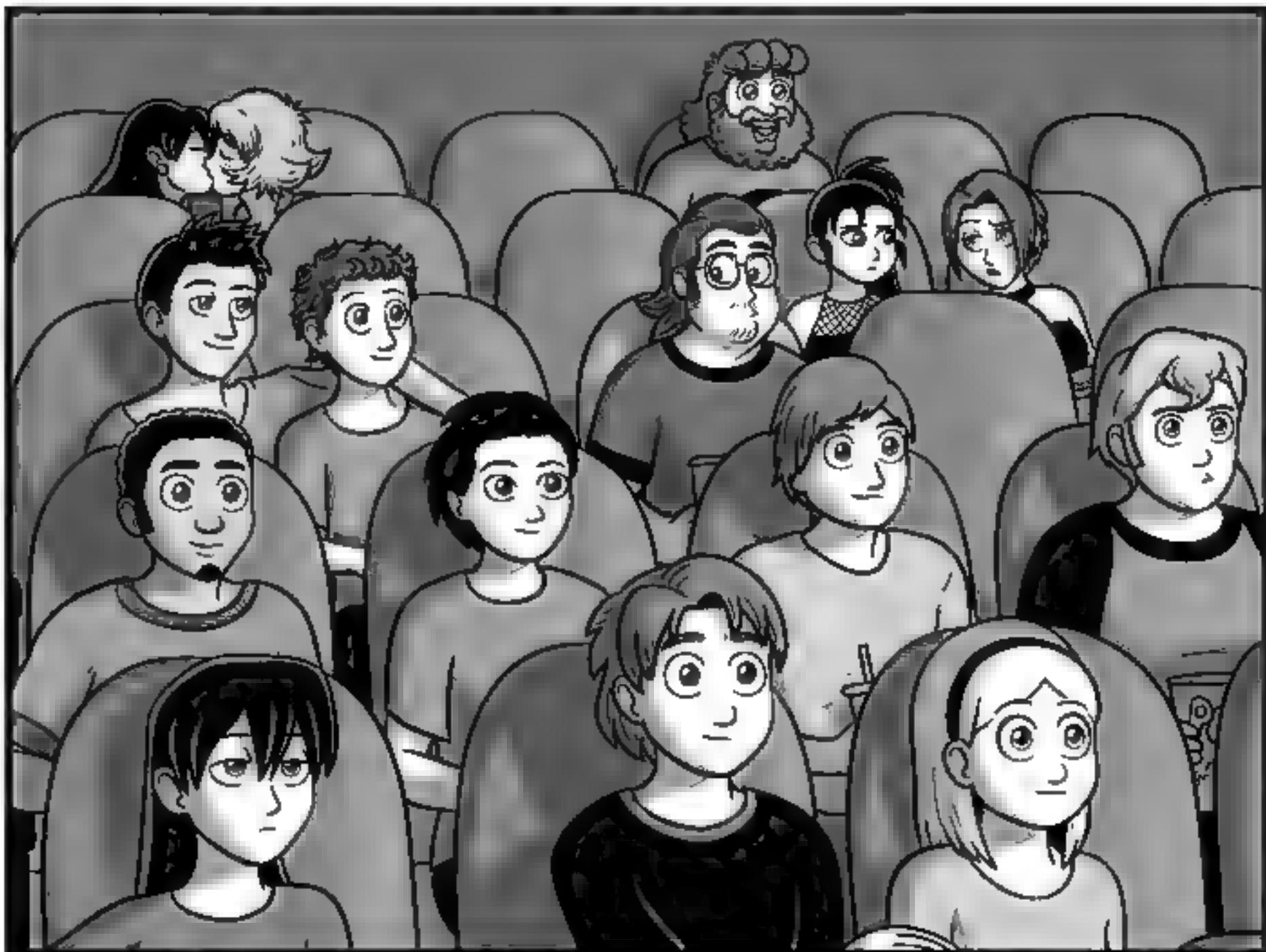
## Summer Moments #1 - "Bad Influence"



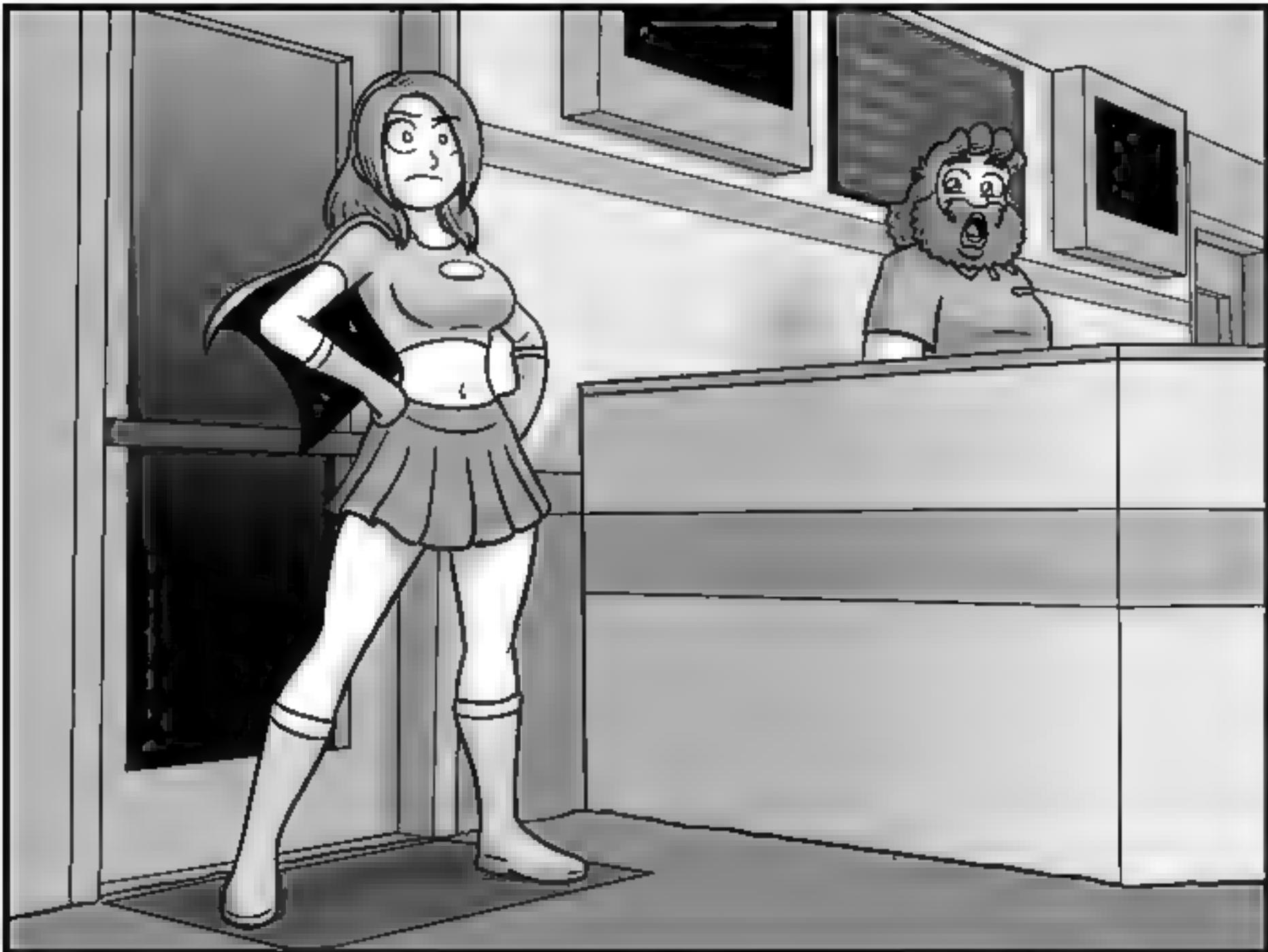
Summer Moments #2 - "Guess Which Of Us Is Who"



## Summer Moments #3 - "At The Movies"



## Previous Summer Moments #4 - "A Perfect Plan"



## Previous Summer Moments #5 - "Hazards Of Clone Form Pranking"



SO IN CONCLUSION,  
EVERY BELOVED HISTORICAL  
FIGURE WAS HORRIBLE IN  
SOME WAY

MS.. SQUIRREL, THAT ASSERTION  
IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH WHAT  
IS IN YOUR TEXTBOOKS

OUR TEXTBOOKS  
LEAVE OUT A LOT  
OF STUFF

DO THEY NOW? AND  
WHERE DID YOU DISCOVER  
THIS "LEFT OUT" STUFF?  
THE INTERNET?

SOME OF IT BUT  
I VERIFIED THEIR  
SOURCES, AND

YOUNG LADY,  
THERE'S NOT ONE  
THING THAT'S BEEN  
POSTED ONLINE  
THAT'S TRUE!

ALL OF  
THOSE FUNNY  
CAT PICTURES?  
**COMPUTER  
GENERATED!**

THAT'S NOT TRUE!  
I'VE MET SOME OF  
THOSE CATS!

AND WHY  
SHOULD WE  
LISTEN TO  
YOU?

YOU  
DIDN'T EVEN  
REMEMBER  
TO WEAR  
CLOTHES  
TODAY!

I WHAT?

**EEP!**

**BUT I'VE GOTTEN SO MUCH BETTER AT REMEMBERING TO DO THAT!**



ONLY A TOTAL  
WEIRDO WOULD FORGET  
SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

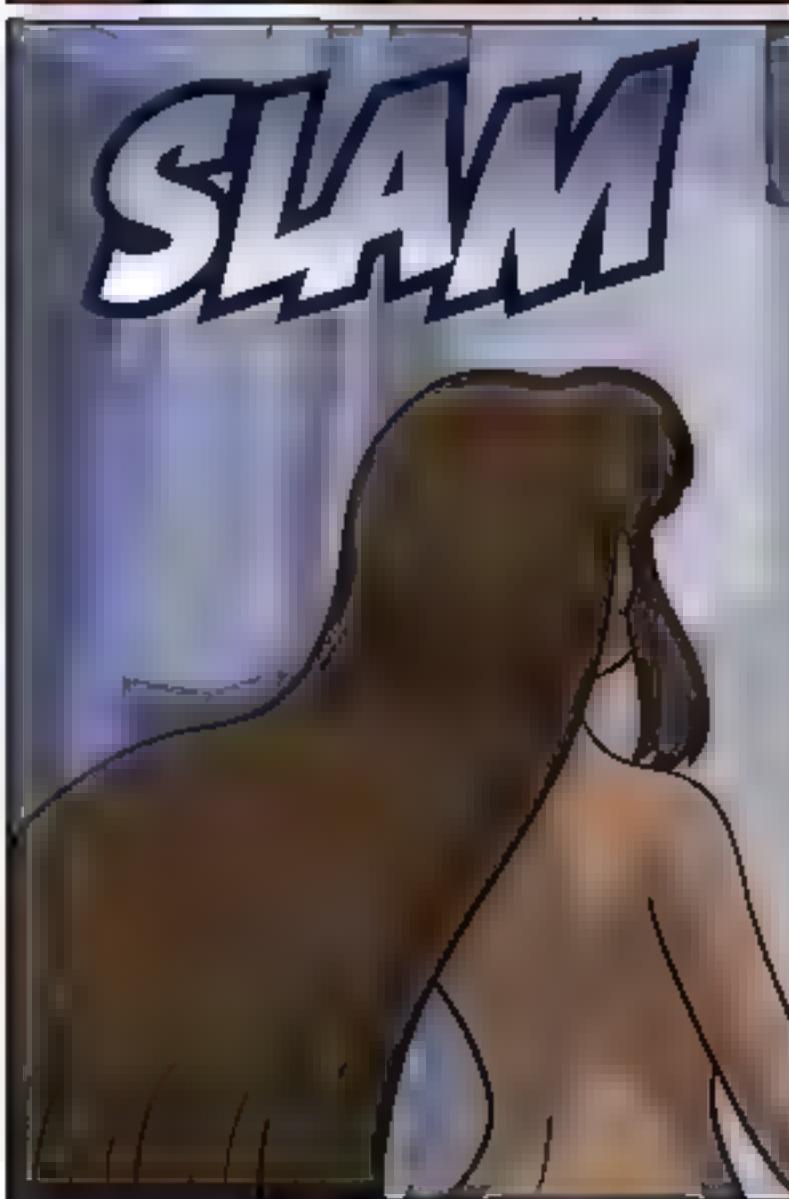


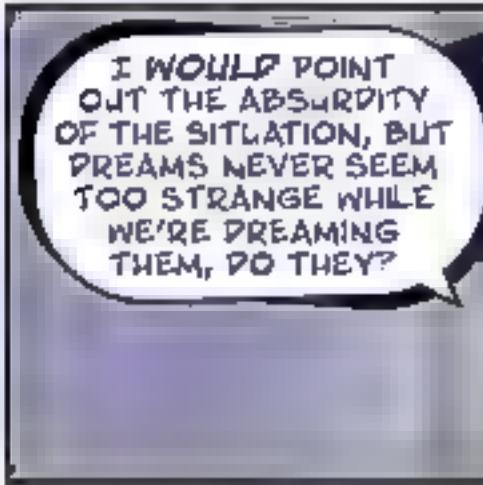
YOU  
DON'T BELONG  
HERE!



# **YOU DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE!**







YOU TRANSFORMED  
MY TEACHER INTO A  
FOXY RHODA?

I MERELY FACILITATED THE MODIFICATION OF THIS DREAM USING THE THOUGHTS AND ASSOCIATIONS BROUGHT INTO FOCUS WITHIN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS BY VIRTUE OF HAVING BEEN TRIGGERED BY MY QUESTION AND THE DREAM AS IT STOOD PRIOR TO S.A.P. MODIFICATION

FIXED  
A COUPLE  
OTHER  
THINGS,  
WHILE I  
WAS AT  
IT.

:BLINK:

HE TRANSFORMED THAT WAY BECAUSE OF HOW YOUR MIND WORKS.

I ONLY HELPED IT ALONG ON ACCOUNT OF YOU NOT BEING SKILLED AT MANIPULATING LUCIFIR DREAMS.

OH, WELL, I GUESS ELLEN DOES JOKE ABOUT RHODA BEING A PUPPY AND HE DID HAVE ORANGE HAIR, WHICH COULD EXPLAIN THE FOX ASPECT OF...

WAIT! WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU IN MY DREAM!

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER ME AT ALL?

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. I AM A WIZARD, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I AM AN ENVOY WITH AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

I... SORTA HAVE A SENSE OF DEJA VU BUT

THIS WILL BE MY THIRD TIME GIVING IT TO YOU.

AN EMISSARY?  
LIKE A DIPLOMAT?

:GASP:  
AM I-

YOU'RE NOT  
A PRINCESS.

SORRY.  
THIRD TIME  
HERE. THIRD  
TIME ASKER

ISN'T THERE ETIQUETTE  
FOR EMISSARIES? LIKE MAYBE  
KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING  
A PERSON'S DREAM? I  
COULD'VE BEEN NAKED!

WAAIT A MINUTE..  
I WAS NAKED!

WHICH I'D BE TOTALLY FINE  
WITH IF YOU WERE SOMEONE I  
KNEW AND TRUSTED. BUT YOU'RE  
SOME CREEPY DREAM INVADER  
GUY IN A COOL HAT!

I AM SORRY FOR  
THIS, BUT I MUST. I AM ONLY  
ABLE TO REMEMBER ALL THE  
DETAILS OF THE MESSAGE  
WHILE USING THIS MEANS TO  
CONTACT YOU.

THAT'S... BUT  
THERE'S LIKE MAYBE  
A ONE IN TEN  
CHANCE I'LL EVEN  
REMEMBER THIS  
TOMORROW WHY

I AM HERE  
ON BEHALF OF  
**MAGIC**  
**ITSELF.**

I MAKE NO  
CLAIM OF TRULY  
UNDERSTANDING HOW  
THE MIND OF SUCH A  
THING WORKS.

OK MAYBE  
"MINDS" IS  
MORE ACCURATE  
I'M NOT REALLY  
SURE.

HECK, "MIND",  
SINGULAR OR  
PLURAL, MIGHT  
NOT EVEN BE  
APPLICABLE

ANYWAY, DON'T BOTHER ASKING FOR THE SPECIFICS OF HOW BEING MAGIC'S EMISSARY WORKS. IT'S TOO COMPLICATED TO GET INTO.

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT MAGIC HAS A WILL AND OBJECTIVES OF ITS OWN, EXTREMELY LOOSE OBJECTIVES WITH INHUMANLY NEUTRAL INTENTIONS, BUT OBJECTIVES NONTHELESS.

IS THAT WHY MAGIC HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC? BECAUSE IT'S ONE OF ITS OBJECTIVES?

PRECISELY. WELL, I ASSUME THAT'S WHY

IT'S BECAUSE MAGIC ITSELF DOESN'T WANT THAT.

IT DOES NOT. THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS INTENDED TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN WHAT SORT OF POWER IS BESTOWED AND WHO IT IS GIVEN TO BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR NEARLY ANYONE TO GET MAGIC.

THE POINT IS THAT EDWARD VERRES IS CORRECT THAT MAGIC WILL NEVER BE IN COMMON USAGE, BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS HE THINKS

NONETHLESS, EVEN THOUGH IT IS CURRENTLY POSSIBLE TO DO SO, MAGIC HAS NO DESIRE TO GO MAINSTREAM AND MAKE ITSELF AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

CURRENTLY POSSIBLE?

MAGIC IS A FORCE CAPABLE OF DEFYING THE PHYSICAL LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK THE WAY IT DOES NOW.

SO YOU'RE  
HERE BECAUSE--

SHOULD I EVEN  
BOther ASKING  
QUESTIONS?

NO. TEDD'S NOT  
DOING ANYTHING  
THAT RISKS A  
SYSTEM CHANGE.

SORRY, BUT IT'S  
MY THIRD TIME HERE,  
AND YOU NEED TO  
UNDERSTAND THIS.

THERE ARE CONSTANTS  
IN MAGIC. SPECIES WITH  
MAGIC INTERWOVEN INTO  
THEIR VERY NATURE, SUCH  
AS URYHOMS, AREN'T AT  
RISK OF SUDDENLY NOT  
BEING ABLE TO CHANGE  
FORMS.

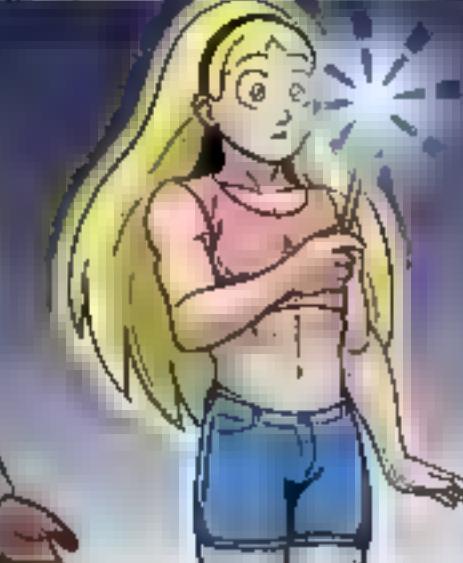
HOW MAGIC WORKS  
FOR HUMANS, HOWEVER, CAN  
CHANGE PRACTICALLY.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE  
PEOPLE BORN WITH MAGICAL  
TALENT, AND THERE WILL  
ALWAYS BE WAYS FOR NON-  
TALENTS TO USE MAGIC...



HOW MAGIC POWER CAN BE  
GAINED BEYOND HEREDITY,  
HOW SPELLS WORK, HOW  
DIFFICULT IT ALL IS...

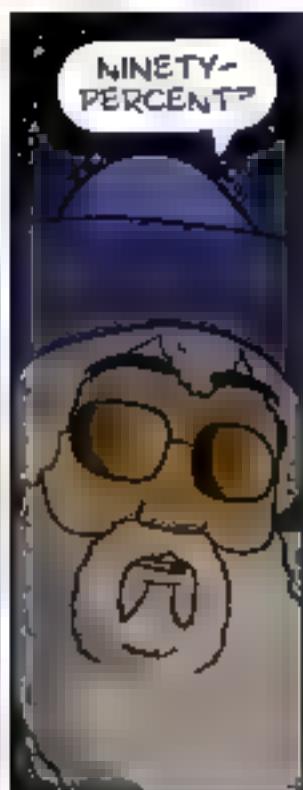
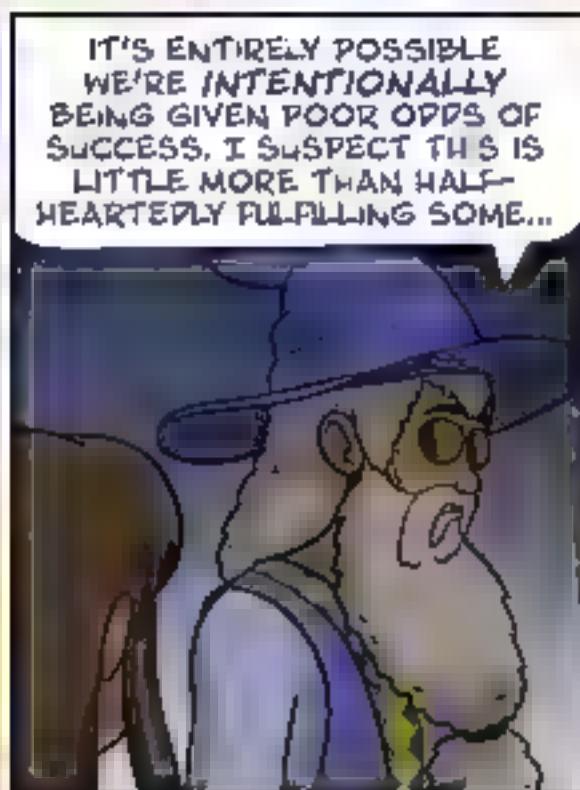
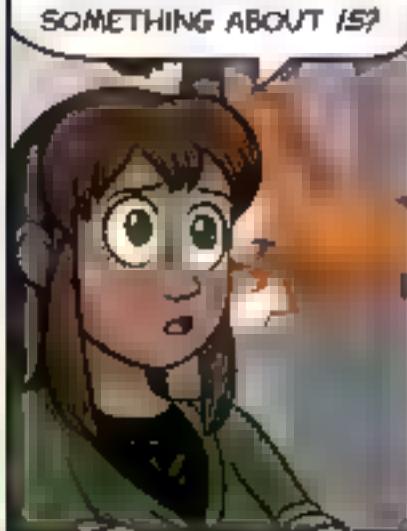
ALL OF THAT IS FLEXIBLE  
WITH HUMANS. ALL OF THAT  
CAN CHANGE, AND HAS  
BEFORE. MANY TIMES.



THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE PICTURED YOUR FRIEND ACCIDENTALLY TURNING HERSELF INTO A MUSCULAR MAN AT THIS POINT. IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD.

SO IF YOU'RE TELLING ME ALL THIS, AND TEDD'S NOT DOING ANYTHING TO CHANGE A SYSTEM CHANGE SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IS?

YES, AND IF IT CONTINUES, IT WILL BE THE MAGICAL EQUIVALENT OF SOMEONE SUDDENLY CHANGING THE OPERATING SYSTEMS ON EVERYONE'S COMPUTERS



IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH PROGRESS.

ON ITS OWN? NO. IT IS, HOWEVER, TELLING OF HOW WE MIGHT HELP YOU RECALL THIS INFORMATION

I NEED TO WATCH A HARRY POTTER MARATHON?

WE NEED TO ESTABLISH ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE INFORMATION. SPECIFIC THINGS THAT MIGHT TRIGGER YOU RECALLING IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE TRY AND MAKE IT SO I'LL REMEMBER STUFF FROM THESE DREAMS WHEN I SEE CERTAIN THINGS?

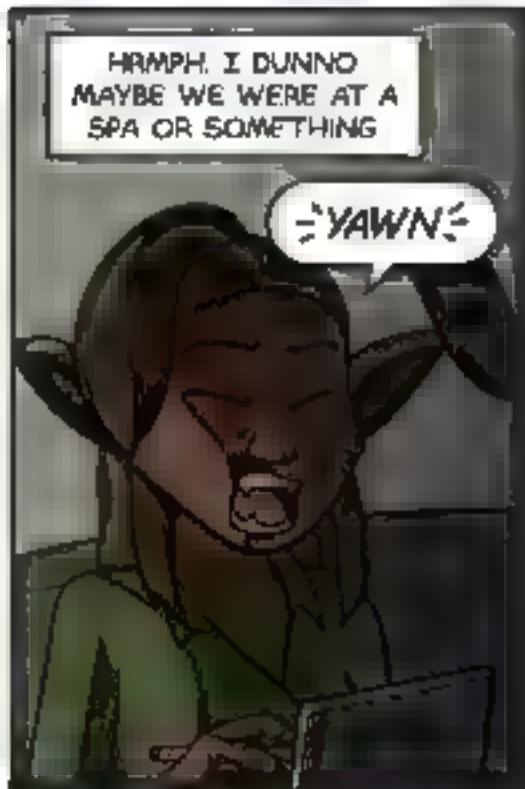
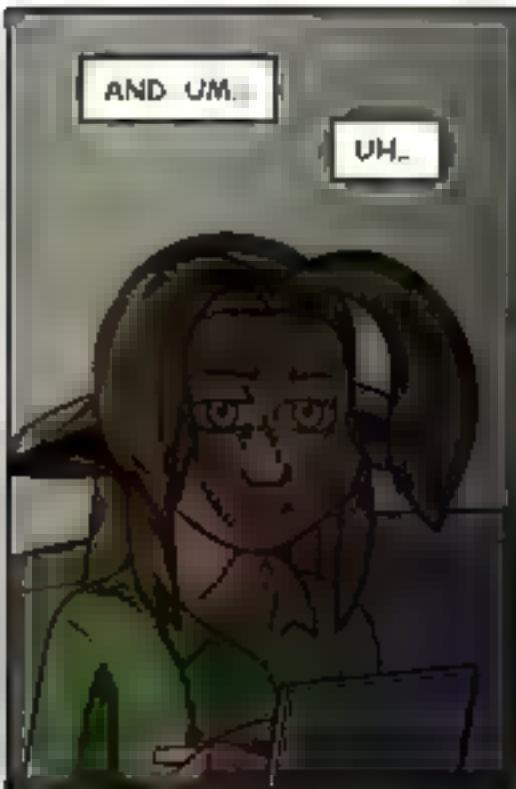
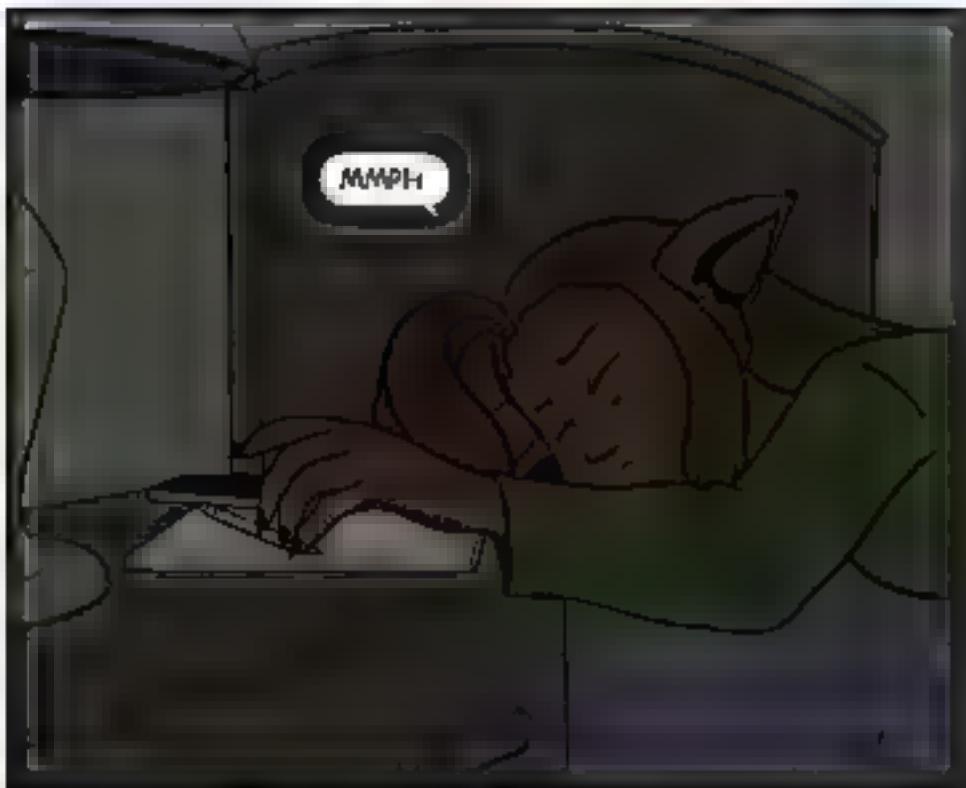
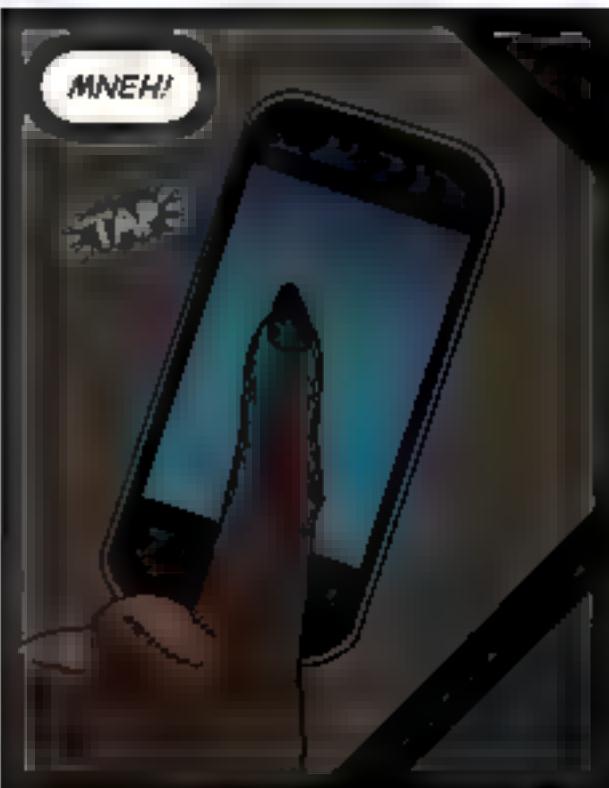
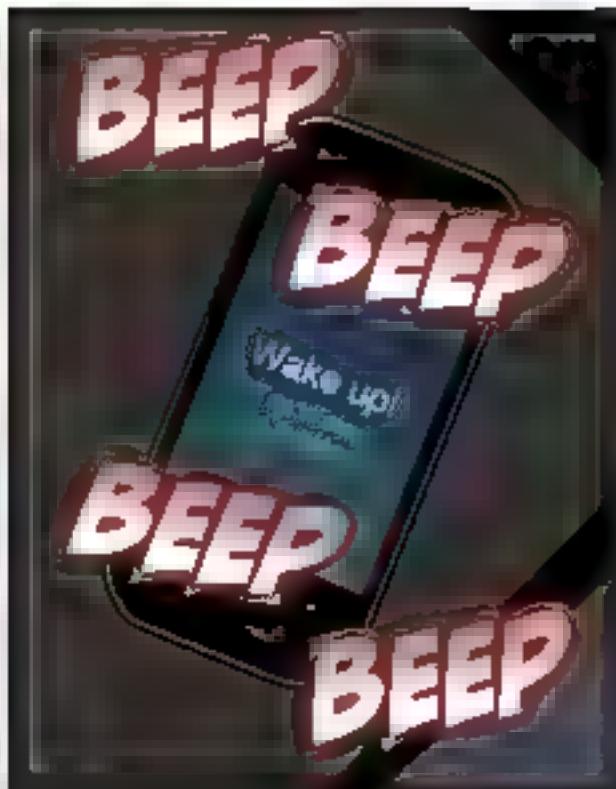
SEE, HEAR... THEY COULD BE\_TRIGGERED IN MANY WAYS. I'M SUGGESTING WE FOCUS ON HELPING THAT ALONG.

SO YOU WANT TO TRY AND MAKE IT SO I'LL REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES OF THIS DREAM EFFECTIVELY AT RANDOM?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT ELSE TO DO. IT'S POSSIBLE YOU COULD GET LUCKY AND RECALL WHY IT'S HAPPENING EARLY ON.

THIS IS GONNA BE AWKWARD.

OKAY LET'S DO IT



Part 2 of "Squirrel Prophet" will begin on Monday Sketchbooks Thurs-Friday

I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE ELLIOT IS RUSHING THINGS, DATING A NEW GIRL SO SOON, BUT THAT'S THEIR MISTAKE TO MAKE. AND ASHLEY SOUNDS--

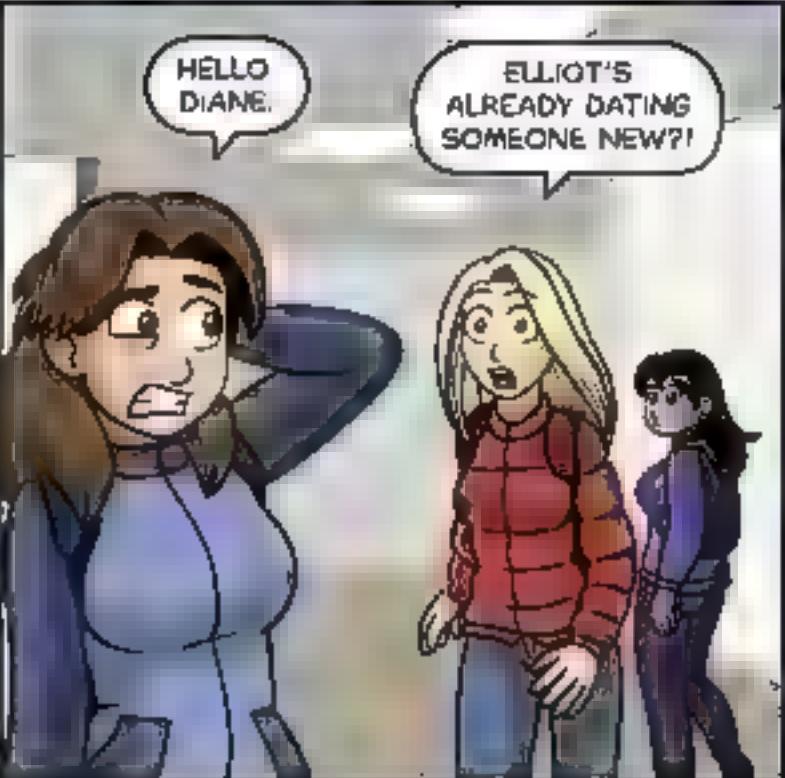
**WHAT?**

OH CRAP



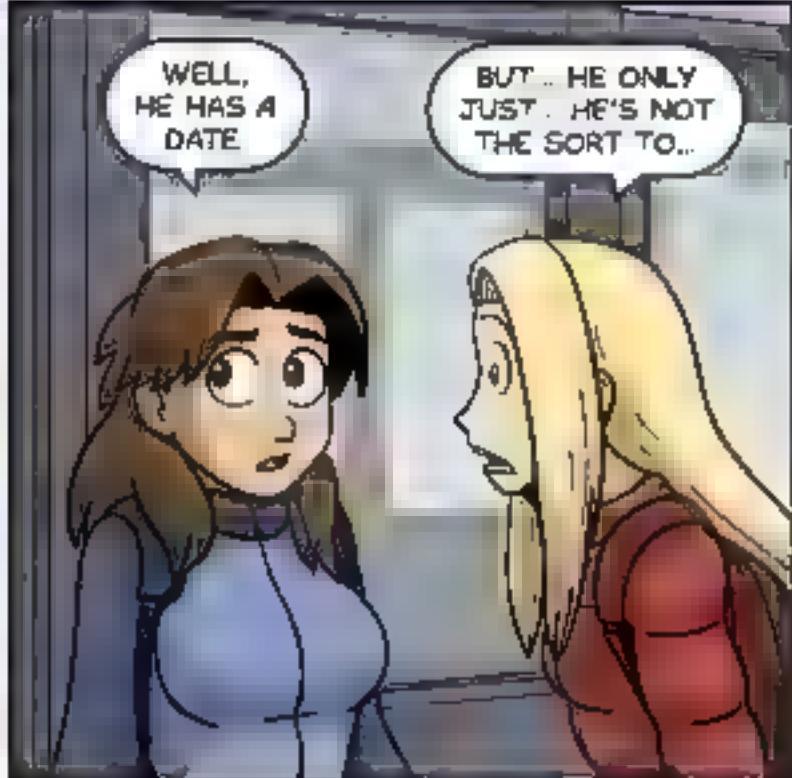
HELLO DIANE.

ELLIOT'S  
ALREADY DATING  
SOMEONE NEW?!



WELL,  
HE HAS A  
DATE

BUT... HE ONLY  
JUST... HE'S NOT  
THE SORT TO...



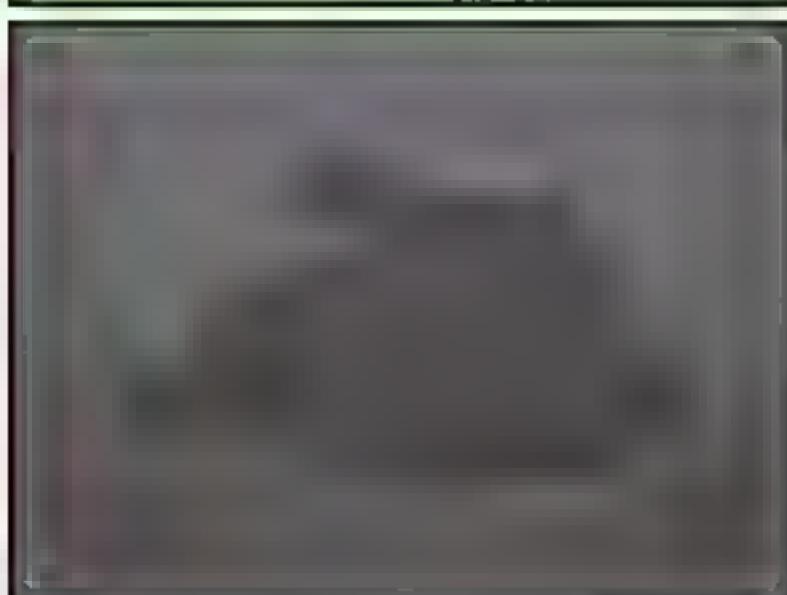
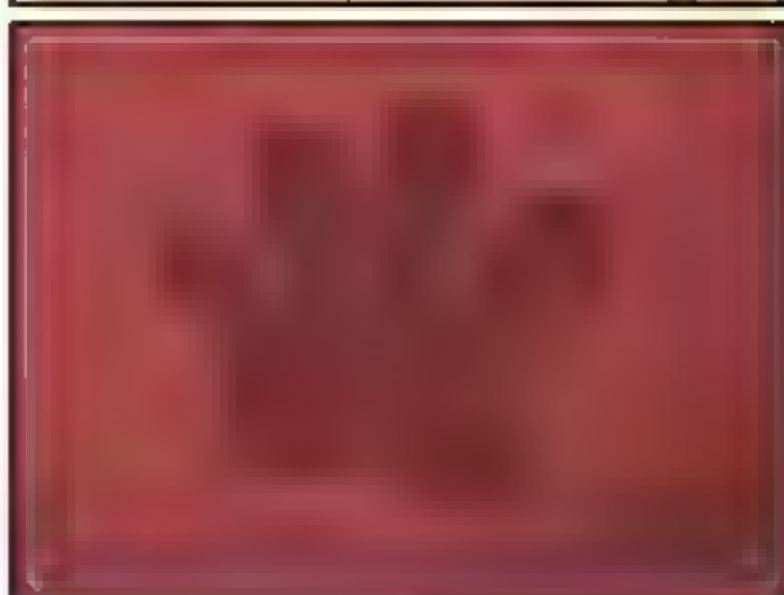
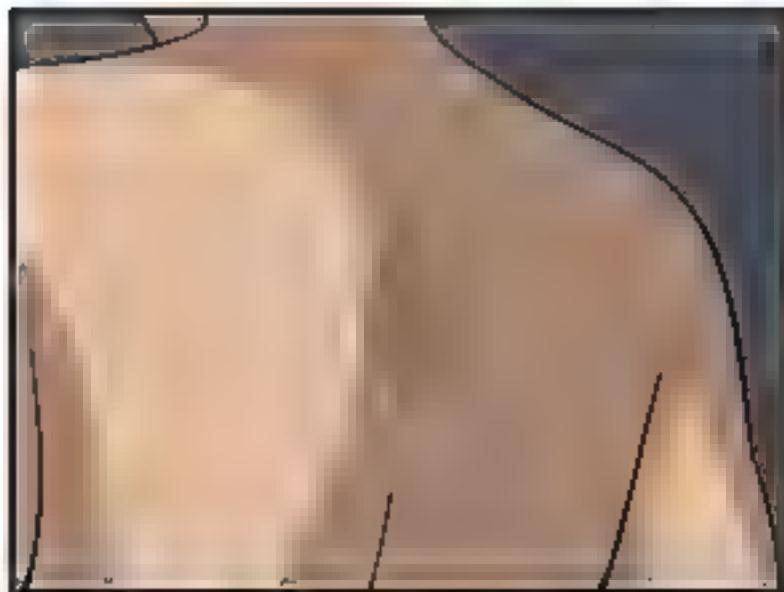
THE @#\*\$&?!

EXCUSE ME,  
YOUNG LADY BUT  
THAT'S DETEN--

BACK OFF.

YES  
MA AM.





IT'S NOT LIKE ELLIOT WENT LOOKING FOR A DATE HE..

WAS APPROACHED BY A GIRL WHO WANTED TO WARN SUSAN (WHO MIGHT BE YOUR SISTER) ABOUT HER MANIPULATIVE EX, AND WOUND UP SEEING HIM TRANSFORM INTO A GIRL, AND SHE'S APPARENTLY INTO THAT SORT OF THING?

JUHNT JUST SORT OF HAPPENED?



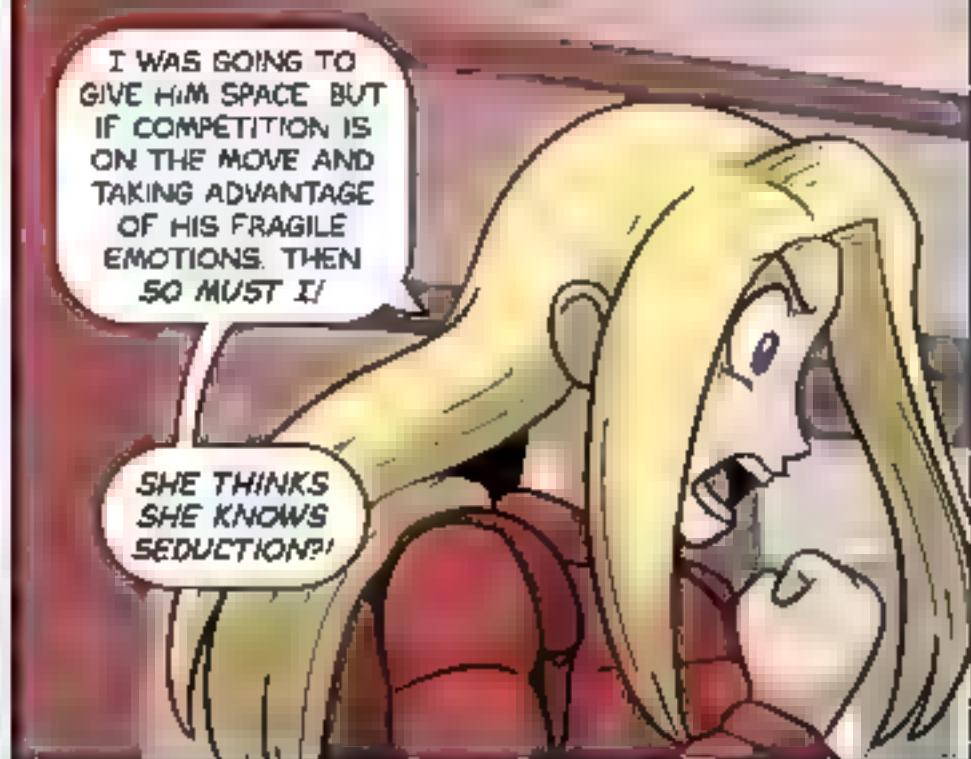
I GET IT GIRL CAUGHT HIM ON THE REBOUND WHEN HE WAS VULNERABLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT



I WAS GOING TO GIVE HIM SPACE BUT IF COMPETITION IS ON THE MOVE AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS FRAGILE EMOTIONS, THEN SO MUST I!

SHE THINKS SHE KNOWS SEDUCTION!



SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SEDUCTION IS!

NOT THAT I'M INTERESTED IN HIM OR ANYTHING.

SERIOUSLY?



WHAT? I'M JUST SAYING HE'S GOOD AT INADVERTENTLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE.

IMAGINE ELLIOT TRYING TO ATTRACT PEOPLE RIGHT?

I'M NOT SAYING I'M ANY DIFFERENT WELL, I AM, BUT I'VE GOT CURVES

YOU EVER GET A FEELING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DÉJÀ VU AND FORGETTING SOMETHING?

SAY WHAT?

LIKE YOU'RE SEEING SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE BUT YOU DON'T EVEN REALLY KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU SAW?

LIKE IF SOME GUY SAW A PLATYPUS AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS BUT WAS ALL LIKE "I'VE TOTALLY SEEN THAT PLATYPUS BEFORE"?

WAIT I GUESS HE WOULDN'T KNOW TO CALL IT A PLATYPUS..

NEVERMIND.

DID SHE DO SOMETHING WITH HER HAIR? A NEW BACKPACK? THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ABOUT HER BACK THAT GOT MY ATTENTION.

ELLEN! GRACE!

HAPPY FRIDAY!

FRIDAY MORNING.

YOU SHOULD DRINK COFFEE LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN.

COFFEE IS YAWN! BAD FOR YOU.

OVER HERE, GIRL.

MMPH

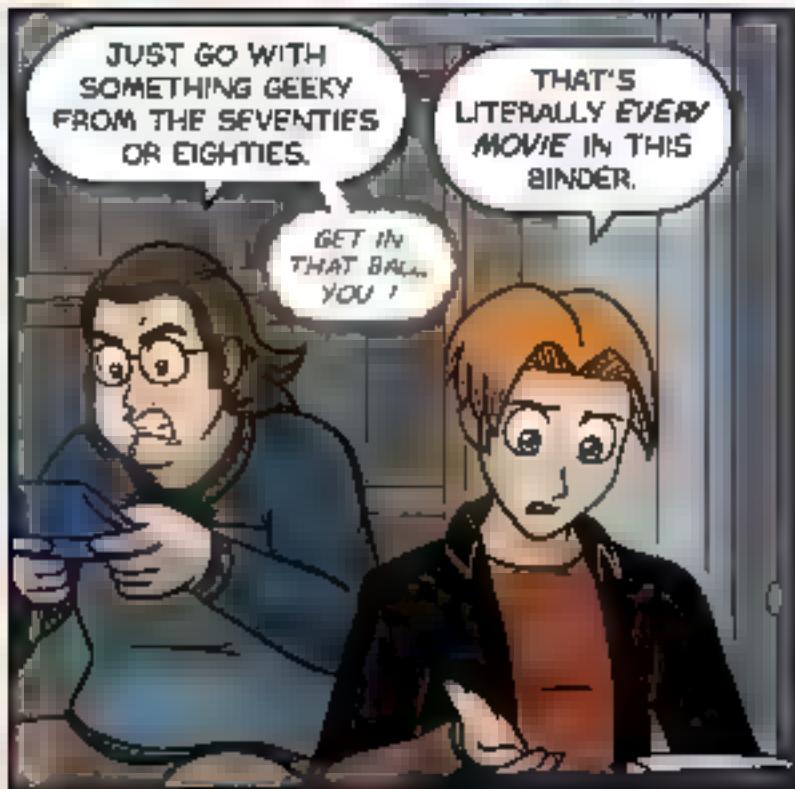
THEY'RE ADORABLE.

COFFEE'S BAD FOR YOU?

THERE'S GOOD AND BAD STUFF ABOUT IT. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY.

WHAT?





I'M JUST SAYING  
YOU'VE BEEN SQUINT NG  
A LOT LATELY

PEOPLE SQUINT TO  
SEE FAR AWAY STUFF

SOUNDS LIKE GRACE AND HER  
BAND OF HOOLIGANS ARE OUTSIDE

THAT MIRROR WASN'T  
VERY FAR AWAY

AND YOUR DAD  
WEARS GLASSES

I LOOK FORWARD TO INFORMING HER  
THAT I NAMED A SENTRIET AFTER HER.

AND SHE'S A  
HIGHER LEVEL  
THAN YOU.

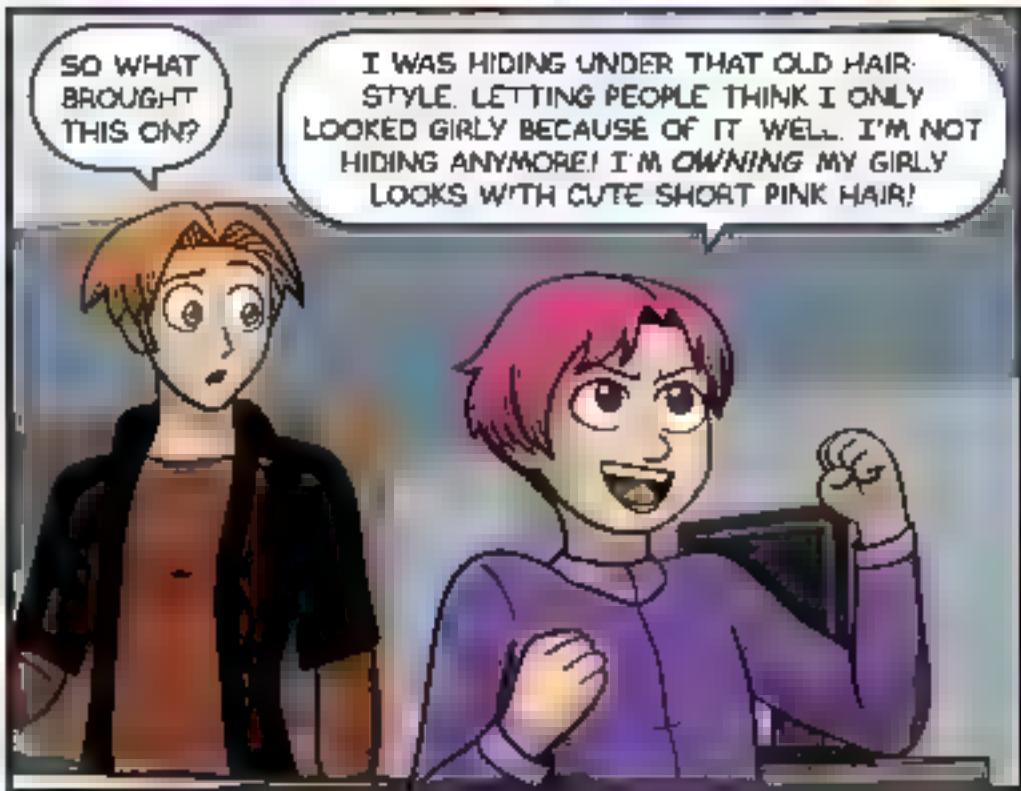
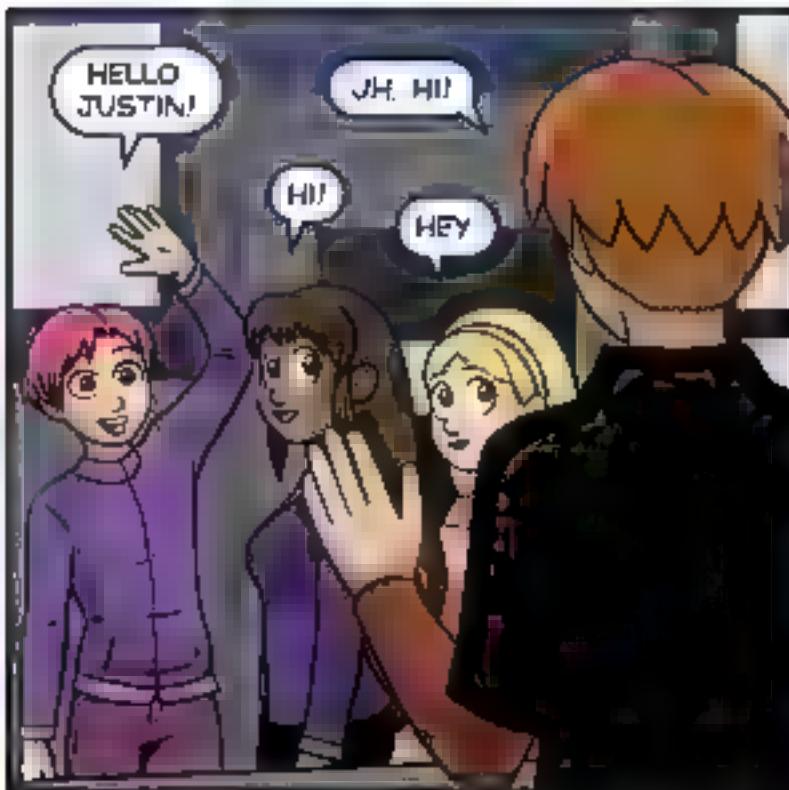
I'M NOT  
EVEN SURE MY  
DAD NEEDS TO  
WEAR THOSE  
THINGS.

CLOSED

YOU'VE  
GONE SILENT  
DID SOMETHING  
INTERESTING  
HAPPEN?

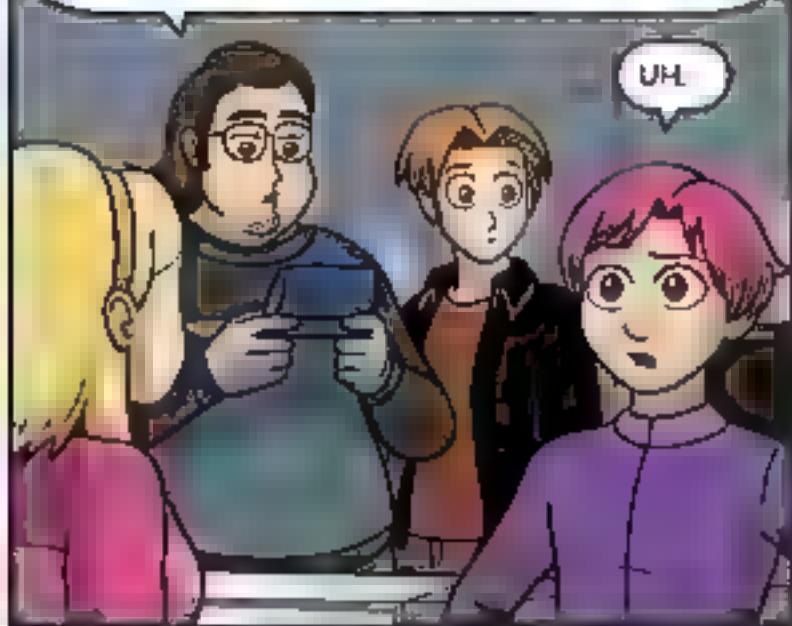
JUSTIN?

YOU'RE GOING  
TO MAKE ME  
LOOK UP FROM  
THIS THING,  
AREN'T YOU?



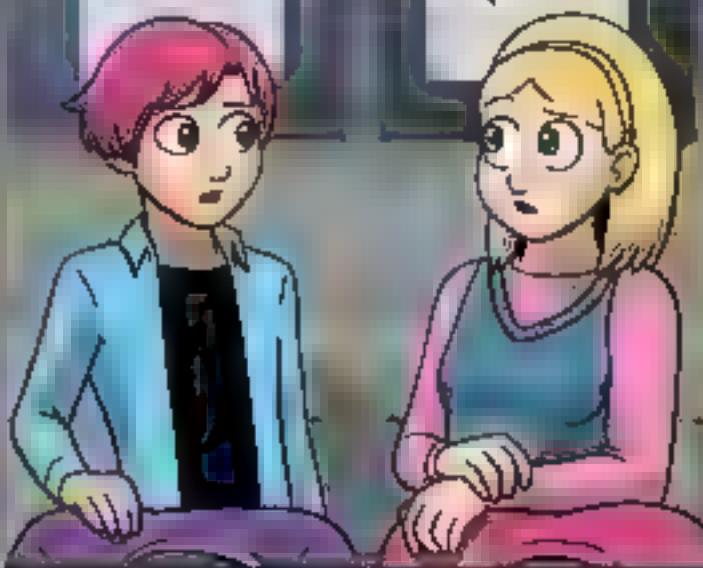
SO THE LONGER HAIR WAS ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE TO SEE YOU A CERTAIN WAY BUT NOW YOU'RE ASSERTING YOURSELF BY CUTTING IT THE WAY YOU WANT IT

BUT YOU ALSO MADE YOUR HAIR PINK. WHICH ALSO SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE TO SEE YOU A CERTAIN WAY UNLESS MAYBE YOU JUST REALLY LIKE PINK HAIR OR SOMETHING.



YOU LIKE MY HAIR DON'T YOU, SARAH?

I'M NOT REALLY USED TO IT YET? BUT YEAH IT LOOKS GOOD. IT'D LOOK A LITTLE BETTER MUSSED UP A BIT



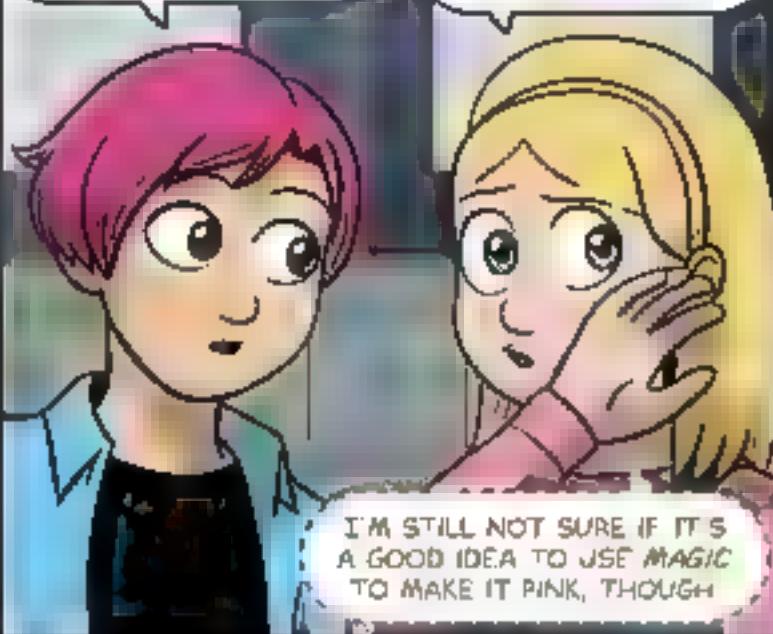
MUSSED UP?

YOU'VE GOT IT COMBED PRETTY NEATLY SOMETHING ABOUT IT MAKES ME REALLY WANT TO RUFFLE IT UP

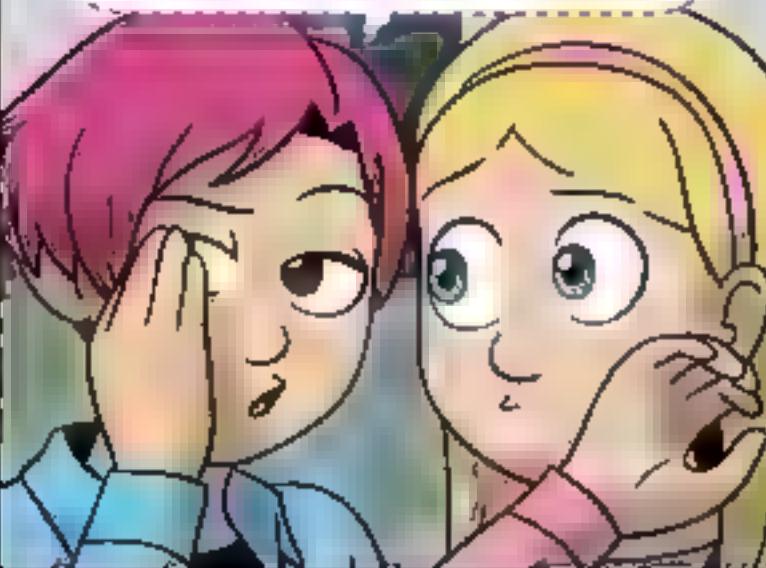


UH, NO THAT'S OKAY WHAT ABOUT THE PINK? PINK IS GOOD?

IT'S... PRETTY COOL. IT'D BE COOLER WITH SOME RUFFLING.



BETTER THAN PUTTING A BUNCH OF CHEMICALS IN MY HAIR. AND THIS WAY IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M USING MAGIC 'N FRONT OF EVERYONE IN SPITE OF ANYTHING MY "HIDE MAGIC FROM EVERYONE" DAD SAYS

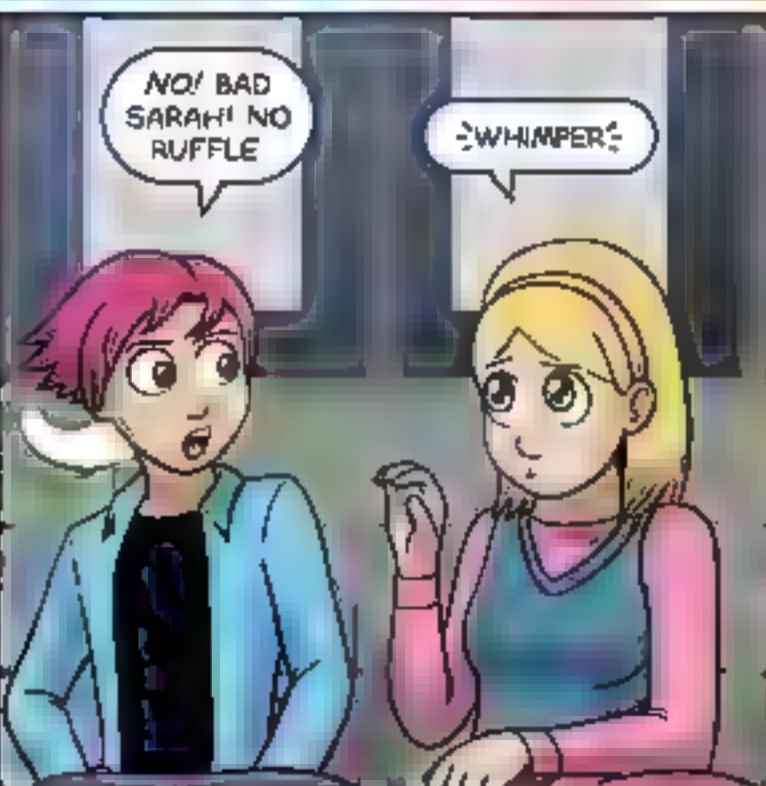


YEAH, PINK WAS A GOOD CALL. IT'S ALL ABOUT ME BEING MYSELF IN SPITE OF ALL THE JERKS WHO WILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT



NO! BAD SARAH! NO RUFFLE

-WHIMPER-

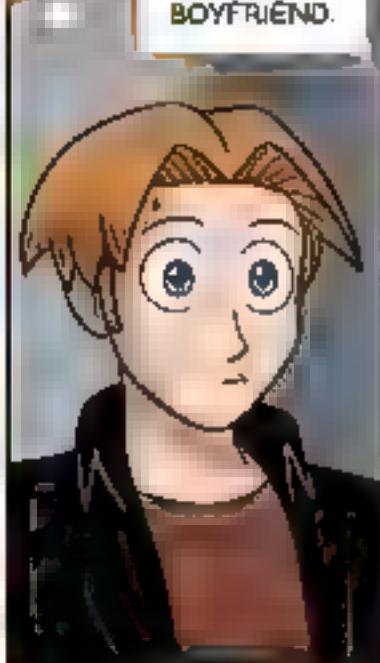


YOU LIKE  
MY HAIR. DON'T  
YOU JUSTIN?

IT'S HARD TO SAY WITH YOUR  
CLOTHES DISTRACTING FROM IT

HAVE GOT  
TO GET A  
BOYFRIEND.

WELL THAT'S  
EASILY FIXED..



YOU DON'T THINK  
I SHOULD WORRY  
ABOUT TEDD SUDDENLY  
CHANGING HIS HAIR DO  
YOU JUSTIN?

OH! UH...

WHY DO  
YOU ASK?

WELL HE JUST  
SUDDENLY TOLD ME  
LAST NIGHT THAT HE  
WAS GONNA GET A  
HAIR CUT AND MAKE  
IT PINK. HE SEEMED  
TENSE WHEN HE  
TOLD ME BUT MAYBE  
HE WAS JUST  
NERVOUS ABOUT  
THE CHANGE?



TODAY FEELS LIKE  
A "HIPPY" DAY

ANYONE WHO NOTICES  
WILL JUST ASSUME I'M  
WEARING NEW SHOES.

THIS'LL MESS WITH  
SOME HEADS AT THE  
COMIC SHOP



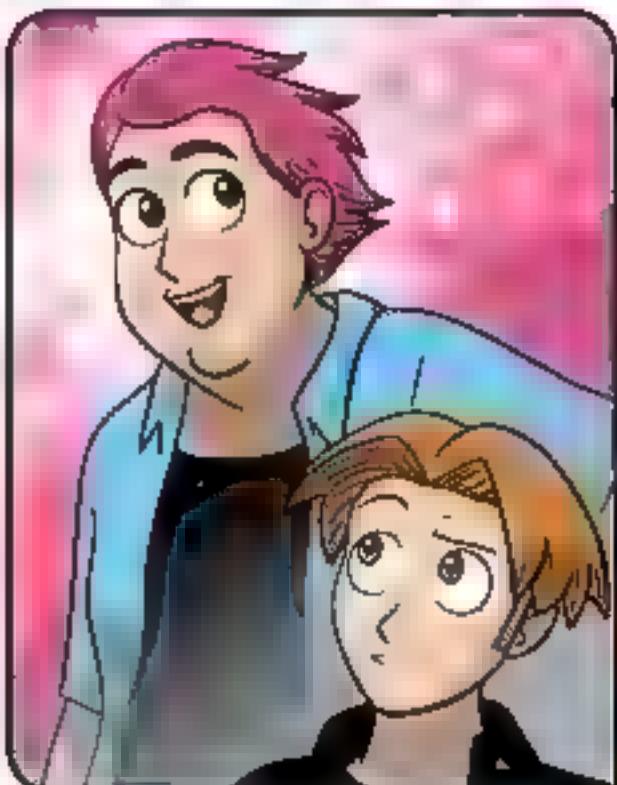
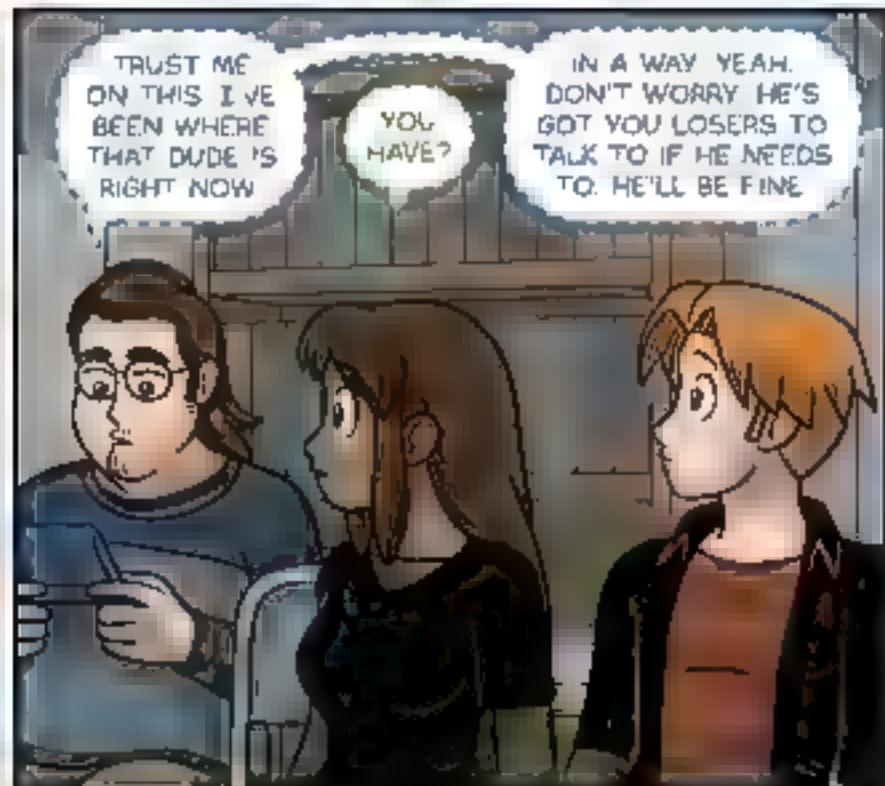
SOMETIMES IT'S JUST A CASUAL THING. SOMETIMES IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF SOMETHING DEEPER

WITH TEDD I THINK IT'S THE LATTER. BUT IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A NATURAL PROGRESSION. YOU KNOW?

YEAH ALMOST I FIGURED HE MIGHT CUT HIS HAIR EVENTUALLY AFTER HE STOPPED WEARING HIS GLASSES IN PUBLIC. BUT THE PINK?

DUDE'S JUST HIGHLIGHTING THE CHANGE

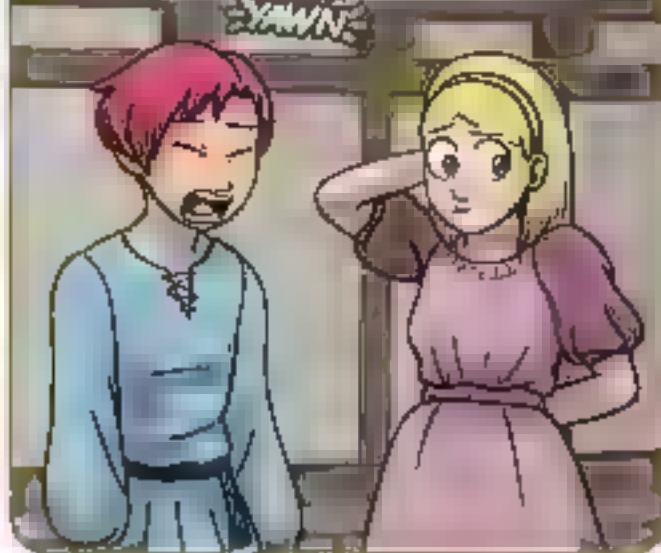
EEP!



I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S ONLY ONE MECHANIC THAT'S NEW TO US IN THE SET WE'LL BE MAKING DECKS FROM TONIGHT AND THAT'S THE "MORPHING" MECHANIC.

WELL, THERE'S SOME IRONY FOR YOU

INDEED. ANYWAY IT BASICALLY MEANS SOME OF THE CARDS WE'LL GET IN THE BOOSTER PACKS MIGHT LOOK WEAK...



...BUT COULD BECOME BIG, POWERFUL WEREWOLVES UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS.

AND JUST AS EASILY BE FORCED TO CHANGE BACK LATER, BUT STILL.

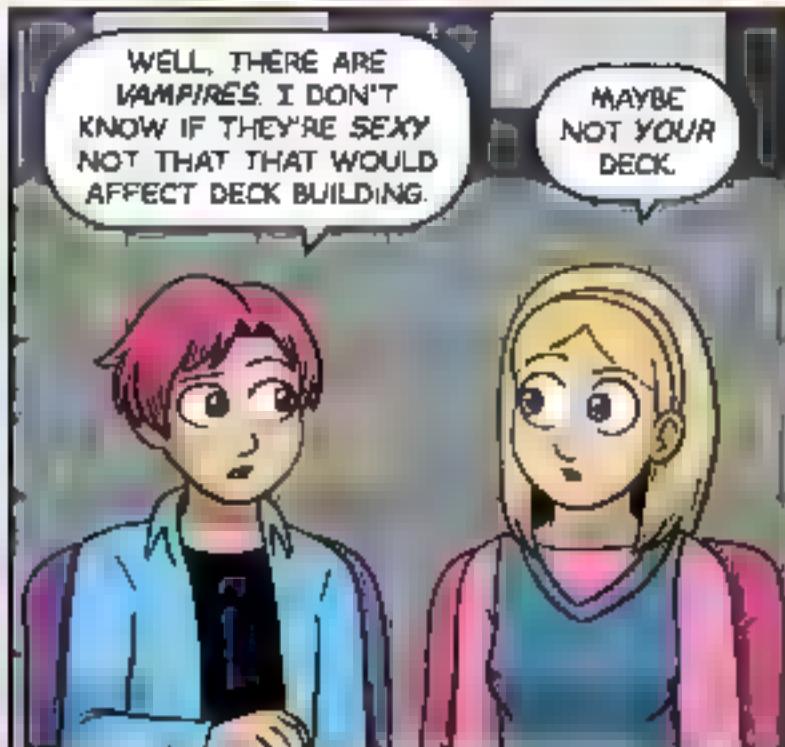
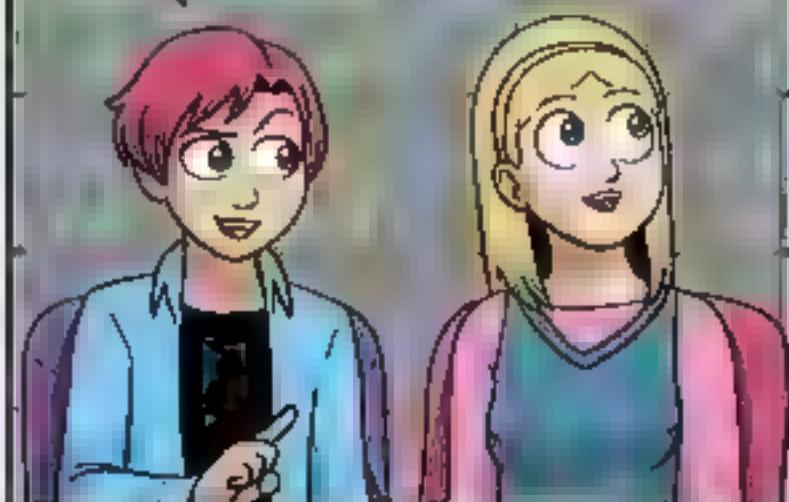


THEIR ENERGY EFFICIENCY SHOULD MAKE THEM A GOOD CHOICE IN THIS LIMITED ENVIRONMENT

THEY SOUND FUN. ARE THERE SEXY VAMPIRES, TOO?

WELL, THERE ARE VAMPIRES. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE SEXY NOT THAT THAT WOULD AFFECT DECK BUILDING.

MAYBE NOT YOUR DECK.



I'D PREFER A WEREWOLF THEMED DECK WITH VAMPIRES. THERE'S LIKE ONE OR TWO GOOD CONFLICTED VAMPIRES, AND THE REST ARE JUST JERKS.



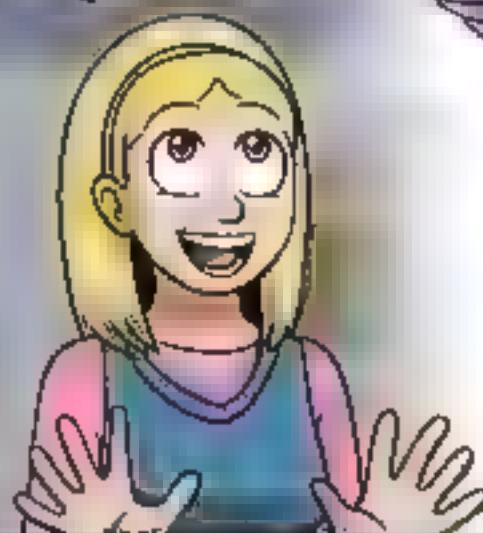
YOU SHOULD PUT ONE VAMPIRE IN YOUR DECK THE HEROIC GOOD VAMPIRE WHO ONLY DRINKS BLOOD FROM VOLUNTEERS!



THAT'S MORE OF A PROTAGONIST ROLE IT WOULD SORTA MAKE IT ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW? I WANNA FOCUS ON A WEREWOLF THEME



WELL, WHAT I CONSIDER THE BEST CASE SCENARIO WOULD BE A DECK WHERE THE WEREWOLVES HAVE BEFRIENDED THE PEGASUS UNICORNS!



OR, YOU KNOW, YOU COULD BUILD A DECK THAT MIGHT WIN A GAME!

ACTUALLY SOME LOW COST FLIERS WITH WEREWOLVES MIGHT JUST...

BAH!



HEY I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST DECK I CAN. BUT THIS GAME IS ALL ABOUT COMING UP WITH FUN THEME DECKS!

NO IT ISN'T



MAN.  
THAT DUMB  
BLONDE

I KNOW  
RIGHT? CAN'T  
EVEN PLAY  
PROPERLY

I BET SHE LIKES  
VAMPIRE AND WERE-  
WOLF ROMANCE CRAP  
AND THINKS THAT  
MAKES HER A GEEK

GIRLS LIKE THAT  
PRETEND TO BE INTO  
GEEKY STUFF BECAUSE SHE  
ASSUMES REAL GEEKS LIKE  
US WILL WORSHIP HER.

SHE JUST  
WANTS TO BE  
THE CENTER OF  
ATTENTION.

MAKE EVERYTHING  
ABOUT HER. ME ME  
ME! PATHETIC.

NOW THAT  
PINK-HAIRED  
CHICK, SHE'S  
GOT CRED

SHE WAS TALKING  
ABOUT CARD DRAW PROB-  
ABILITY WITH JUSTIN.  
SHE'S FOR REAL.

I WONDER  
IF SHE'S  
SINGLE?

I ALSO  
WONDER  
THIS.

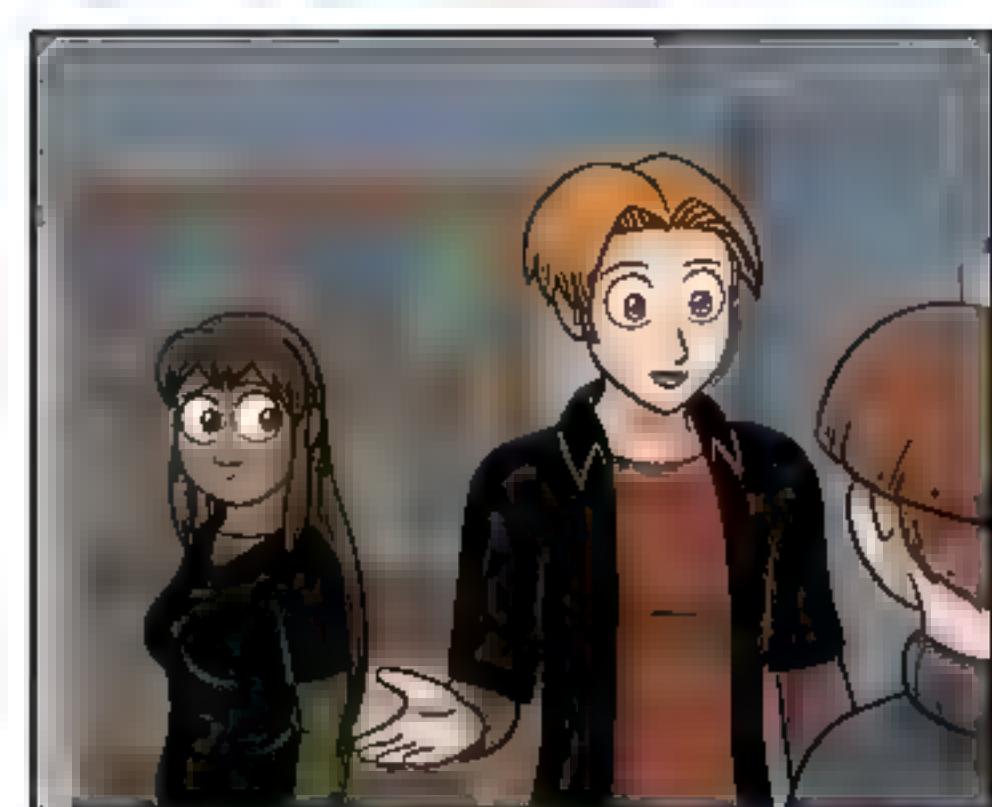
DO YOU NOW?

HMM.

I DO.

YES.

I SEE



WHAT IS IT ABOUT RHODA AND JUSTIN'S BACKS? DO I HAVE A THING FOR BACKS NOW? DO I JUST LIKE SHOULDER BLADES?



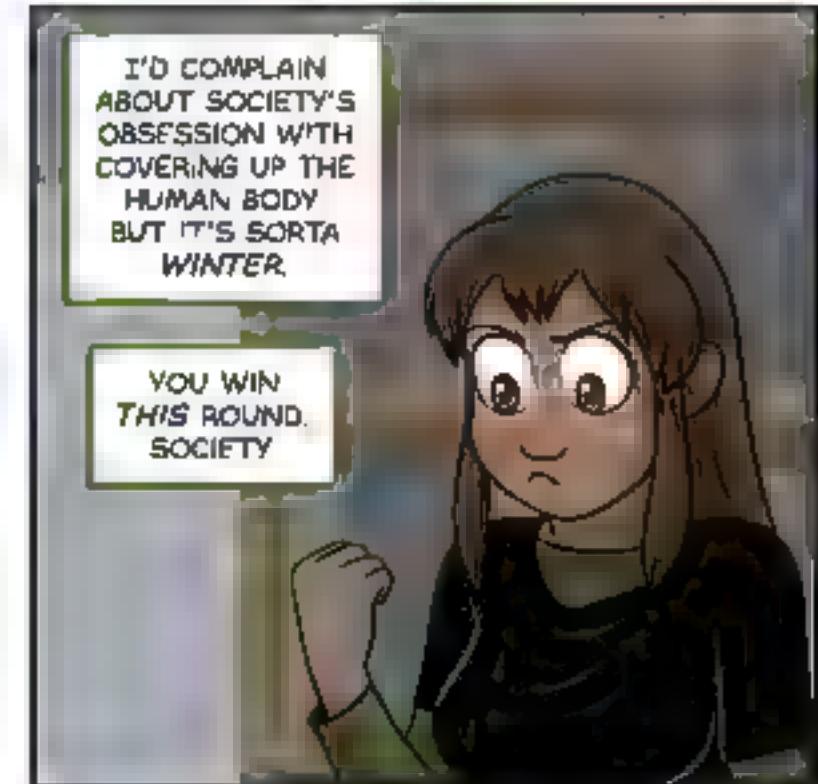
NO.  
SHOULDER  
BLADES ARE  
WEIRD.



I'VE JUST GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW TO DESCRIBE THIS FEELING. THEN I CAN JUST TALK TO THEM AND MAYBE FIGURE IT OUT



ALTHOUGH.. MAYBE SEEING THEM SHIRTLESS WOULD DO IT? THAT'S PROBABLY NOT COOL TO ASK, THOUGH, AND IT'S PROBABLY MAYBE WRONG TO ASK TEDD TO RE-ENABLE THE "SEE THROUGH CLOTHING" OPTION ON HIS GLASSES..



I'D COMPLAIN ABOUT SOCIETY'S OBSESSION WITH COVERING UP THE HUMAN BODY BUT IT'S SORTA WINTER.

YOU WIN THIS ROUND, SOCIETY



HELLO! YOU HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT?

OH, NO, JUST.. CHECKING STUFF OUT.. UH..

YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO KICKED THAT FIRE DUDE INTO THE RIVER, RIGHT..?

IT WASN'T REALLY FIRE,  
BUT YEAH, THAT SOUNDS  
LIKE A THING I DID.

IT'S BEEN A  
WHILE SINCE  
I'VE BEEN  
ASKED THAT  
QUESTION.

WOW, THAT  
I SAW A VIDEO  
OF IT ONLINE. IT  
WAS AMAZING!  
HOW JH.  
HOW'D YOU KICK  
LIKE THAT?

IT'S NOT AS IMPRESSIVE AS  
IT LOOKED. THAT THING WAS  
CRAZY LIGHT FOR ITS SIZE

YEAH, UH. I GUESS  
IT'D HAVE TO BE!

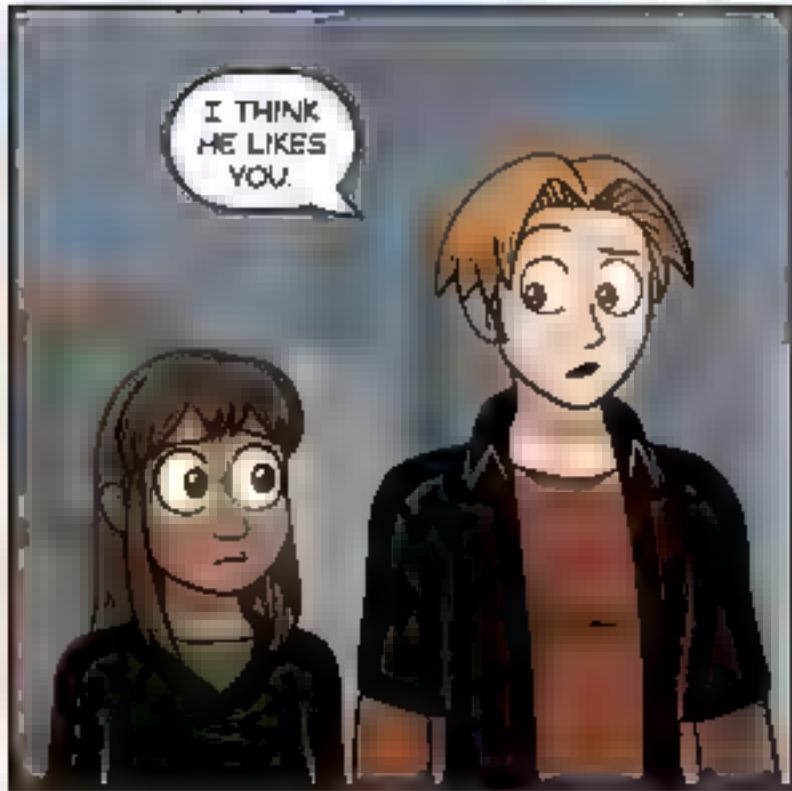
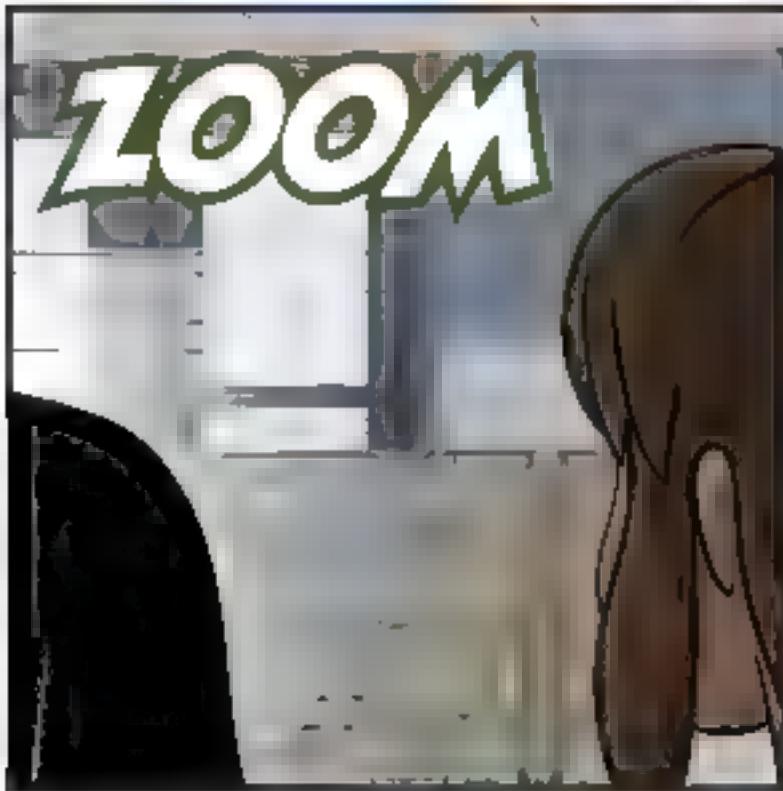
YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE  
SUPER POWERS OR SOME-  
THING IF IT WASN'T!

WELL, I  
DO WORK IN A  
COMIC SHOP!

HAI! YEAH  
I GUESS IT...  
UH...

JH?

?!



DID YOU GET  
A "LOOK" AT  
JUSTIN?

YEAH...  
YEAH.  
HE'S GOT  
A MARK.

THAT'S GREAT!  
NOW WE JUST  
GOTTA TALK TO-

IT'S  
NOT THAT  
SIMPLE!

HIS CO-  
WORKER,  
SHE SHE  
ALSO HAS  
POWER!

"SHE"?

YEAH.

NICE

NO NOT  
NICE! SHE'S  
NOT LIKE JS!  
HER AURA IS  
LIKE THAT  
SHADOW  
GUY'S!

OH CRAP LIKE  
THE SHADOW  
LADY? YOU'RE  
SURE?

YES, I'M  
SURE I'M  
ALSO SURE  
THE SHADOW  
GUY IS A  
GUY

NO GUY RUNS  
AROUND WITH PIG-  
TAILS LIKE THAT

I WOULDN'T  
CALL PREHENSILE  
TENDRILS COMING  
OUT THE BACK OF  
SOME DUDE'S HEAD  
"PIGTAILS!"

WELL WHAT IF  
IT WAS A LADY'S  
HEAD?

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? I MEAN, SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT GUY

LADY

--BUT WHAT IF SHE DOES!!

HANG ON A SEC

THEY'RE HAVING A CARD TOURNAMENT RIGHT? ONE WHERE YOU GET THE CARDS FROM THEM?

JH. YEAH.

OKAY ENTER THE TOURNAMENT AND USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER. MAYBE "LOOK" AT THE OTHER PLAYERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT

I CAN'T DO THAT!

WHY NOT? YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT IT WAS TOTALLY AWKWARD WHEN I LEFT! I CAN'T JUST WALTZ BACK IN THERE NOW!

YOU RAN SCARED LIKE A LITTLE GIRL, DIDN'T YOU.

I MADE A HASTY RETREAT EVEN IF THAT WASN'T AN ISSUE. I STOPPED HANGING OUT IN COMIC SHOPS FOR A REASON, AND IT COSTS TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS TO ENTER!

TWENTY FIVE? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

WELL, THEY GIVE YOU SIX PACKS OF CARDS THAT YOU GET TO KEEP AND YOU CAN WIN EVEN MORE SO IT'S ACTUALLY TOTALLY REASONABLE BUT IT'S STILL TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS!

YOU OWE US TWICE THAT FOR PIZZA. DO THIS AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN

DAMMIT

I'M JUST  
NOT GROSSED  
OUT BY IT

BUT SHE'S  
LUKE'S SISTER!

YEAH, BUT THE ACTORS  
DON'T LOOK RELATED.  
THE CHARACTERS DIDN'T  
GROW UP TOGETHER OR  
KNOW ABOUT IT AND  
IT WAS CLEARLY A  
RETRO-CON.

YOU MEAN  
"RETCON"

OH, WHAT'S  
A "RETRO-CON"  
THEN?

SOUNDS LIKE A CONVENTION  
CELEBRATING STUFF FROM THE  
PAST.. SO PRETTY MUCH JUST  
"A CONVENTION" REALLY

ANYWAY I GET WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING GRACE. BUT AS FAR AS THE  
OFFICIAL CANON'S CONCERNED, LUKE  
WAS TOTALLY KISSING HIS SISTER.

UH. HI

YOU'RE  
BACK!

OKAY... I'LL JUST NEED  
YOUR NAME FOR--

LUKE

OH UH...

SIGNS

I ASSURE YOU THAT  
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT  
A DIFFERENT LUKE!

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ENTER  
THE SEALED TOURNAMENT.  
HERE'S THE ENTRY FEE.

JH.. YEAH I-I  
KNOW THAT LUKE'S  
SORTA FAMOUS.

DO I FRIGHTEN YOU? IS IT BECAUSE  
MY CHEERFULNESS MAKES YOU THINK  
I'M UP TO SOMETHING? I'VE BEEN  
TOLD IT DOES, BUT I'M NOT

YET

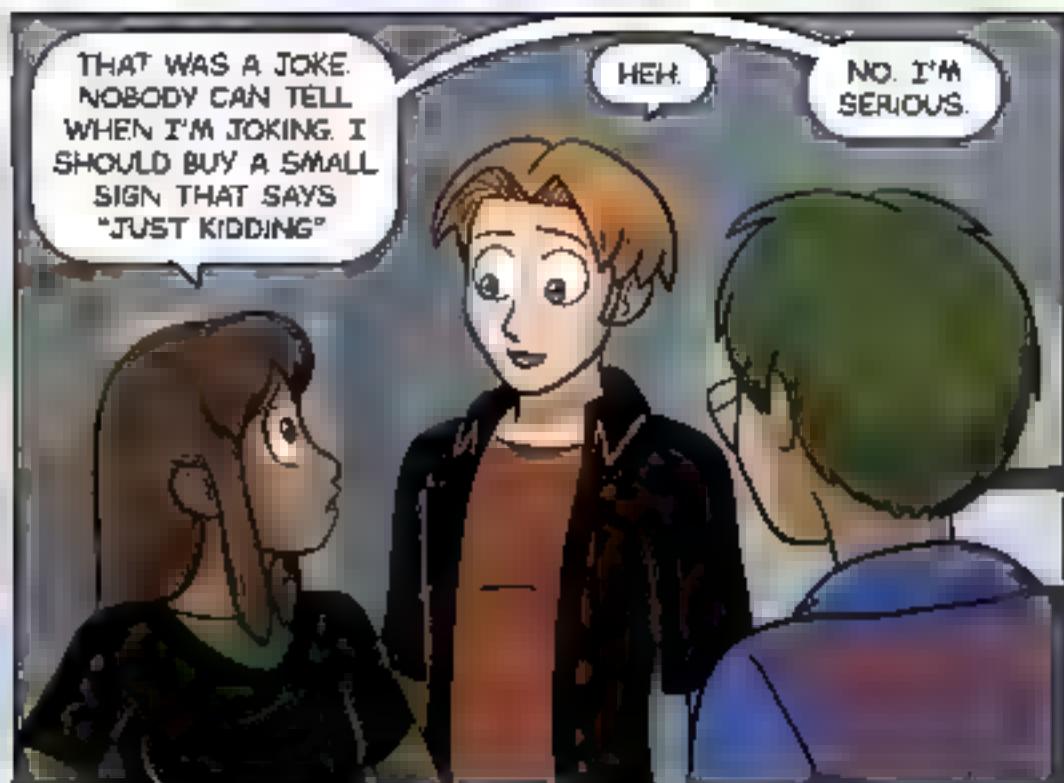


EEP!

THAT WAS A JOKE.  
NOBODY CAN TELL  
WHEN I'M JOKING. I  
SHOULD BUY A SMALL  
SIGN THAT SAYS  
"JUST KIDDING"

HEH

NO, I'M  
SERIOUS.



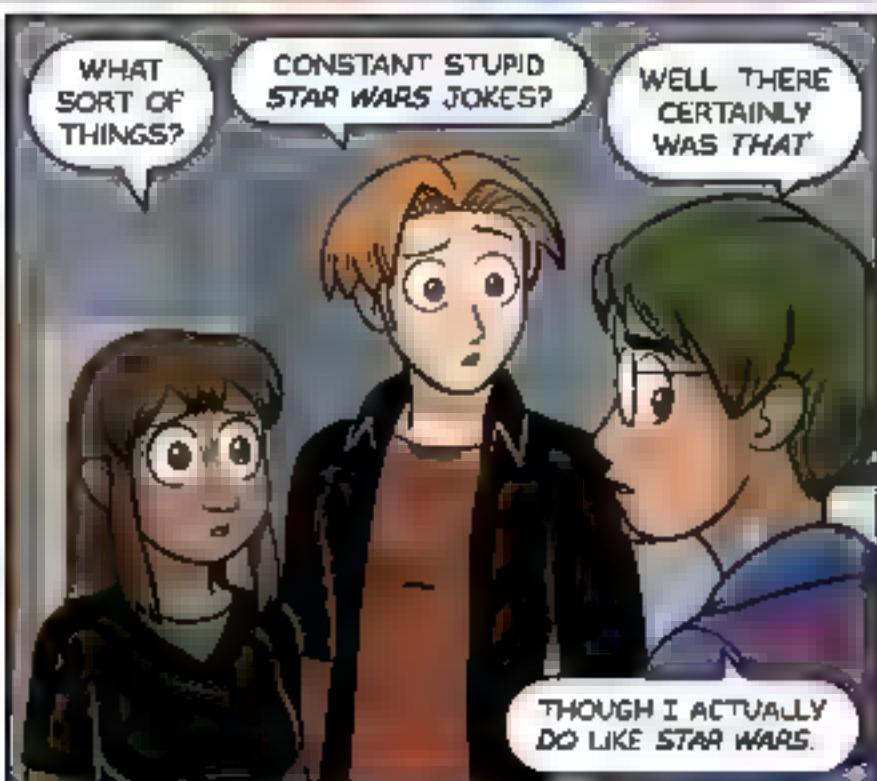
SORRY I I'M  
JUST NERVOUS. IT'S  
BEEN A WHILE SINCE  
I'VE PLAYED IN A  
TOURNAMENT IN  
PERSON AND, UH...

PEOPLE AT  
THE COMIC SHOP  
I USED TO GO  
TO WERE SORTA  
AWFUL ABOUT  
SOME.. THINGS

WHAT  
SORT OF  
THINGS?

CONSTANT STUPID  
STAR WARS JOKES?

WELL THERE  
CERTAINLY  
WAS THAT



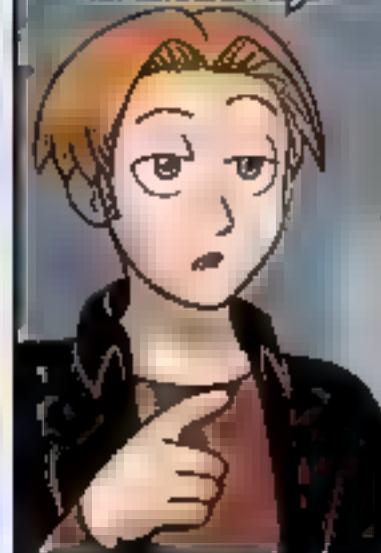
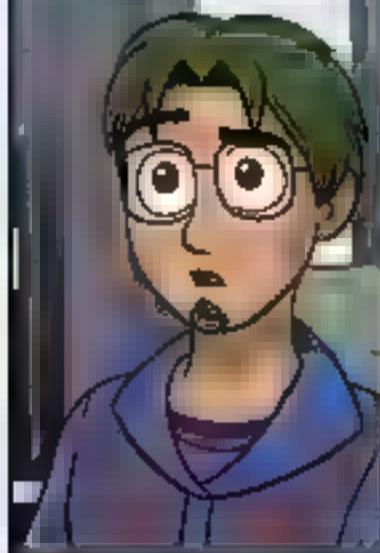
THOUGH I ACTUALLY  
DO LIKE STAR WARS.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT THE TOURNAMENT'S AT SEVEN, RIGHT? MADE IT JUST IN TIME...

OFFICIALLY, YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT GONNA START UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AFTER THAT

WHY'S THAT?

'CAUSE HALF THE PLAYERS ALWAYS SHOW UP AT THE LAST SECOND AND DELAY EVERYTHING



DON'T START! WE'RE HERE!

WE'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS LEFT!

HIS PHONE TOTALLY HAS THE OFFICIAL TIME IT CONSTANTLY CHECKS WITH A SERVER IT'S THE RIGHT TIME WE'RE NOT LATE!



WELL, SEE IN THE TIME IT TOOK YOU TO SAY THAT...

DUDE!

RELAX. YOU'D THINK WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THIS EVERY WEEK...

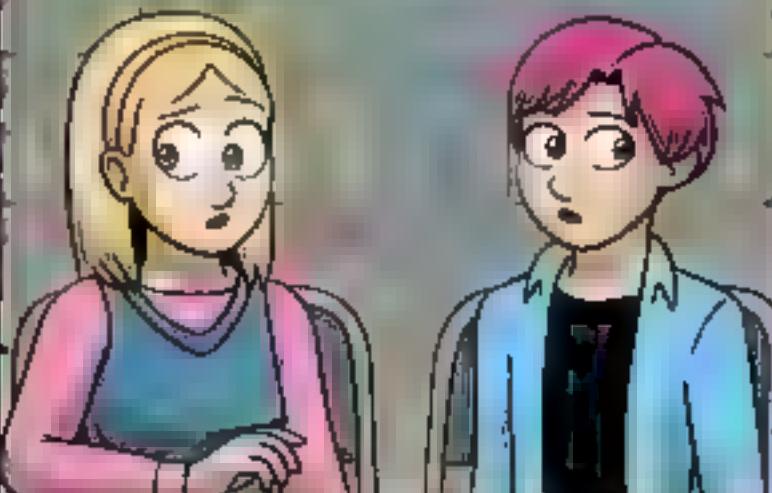
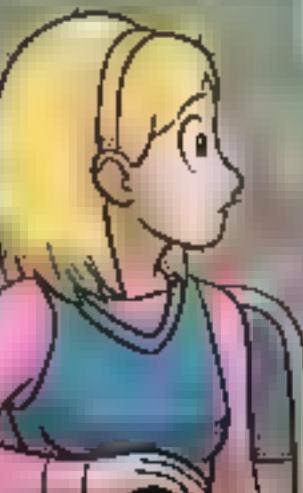


WOW UH.. A LOT OF PEOPLE PLAY IN THESE THINGS. DON'T THEY?

THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING. YEAH.

PLAYING EVERY WEEK. THEY MUST BE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS GAME.

NO DOUBT

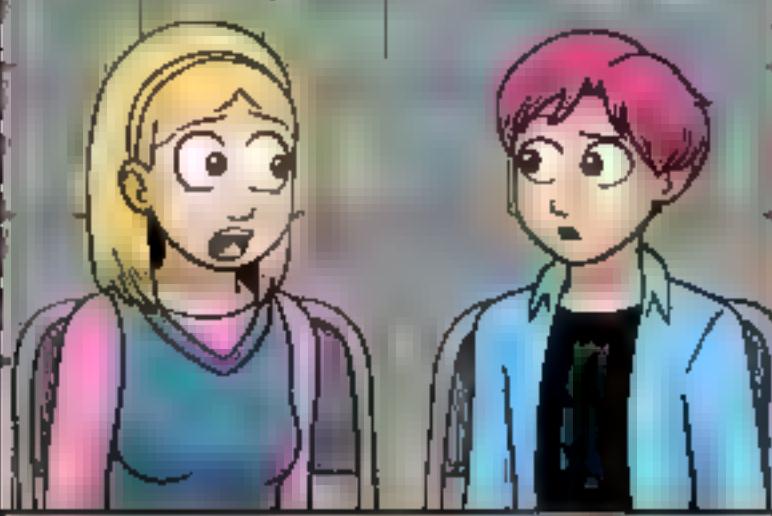


WELL, I'M JUST IN IT FOR THE DECK MAKING. I DON'T MIND IF I LOSE.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD SPORT.

I MEAN, IT'D BE EMBARRASSING IF I GOT MY ASS HANDED TO ME. HUMILIATING, REALLY BUT THAT'S FINE I'M FINE WE'RE ALL FINE HERE HOW ARE YOU?

UH FINE?



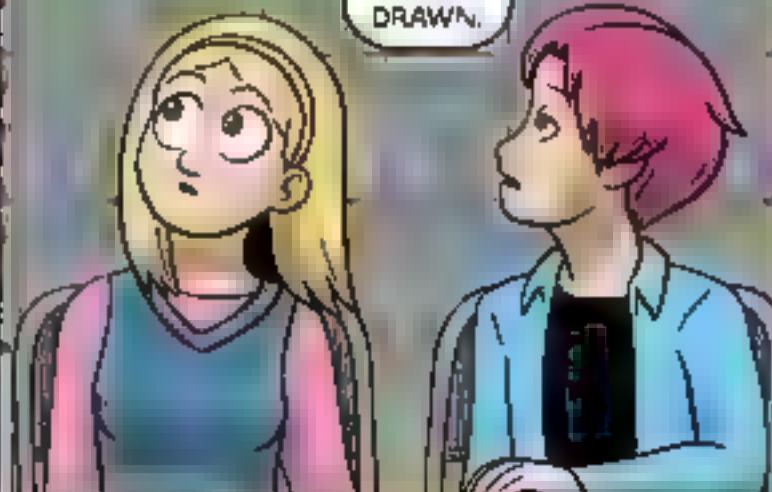
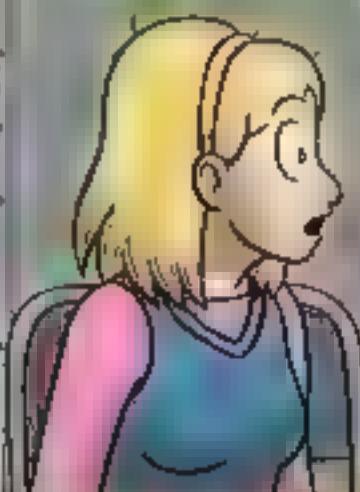
NO YOU'RE NOT I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES

SARAH. RELAX. OKAY? YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY AND EVERYONE'S GONNA HAVE A RANDOM POOL OF CARDS. A LOT OF IT WILL BE ABOUT LUCK.

IN THE END, THOUGH, IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO SKILL

REALLY SO WHEN JUSTIN BEAT—

WITHDRAWN.



THE TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! BEFORE IT DOES, I'M GOING TO GO OVER THE TOURNAMENT RULES!

BOO.

I AM AWARE THAT MOST OF YOU KNOW THESE RULES, BUT WE HAVE NEW PLAYERS TONIGHT AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT A LOT OF YOU ARE BAD LISTENERS.

BOO.

THIS TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT MAKING DECKS FROM CARD PACKS AND ENERGY CARDS WE WILL PROVIDE YOU ARE NOT TO OPEN YOUR PACKS UNTIL I SAY SO AT WHICH POINT YOU WILL HAVE A SET AMOUNT OF TIME TO MAKE A DECK WITH A FORTY CARD MINIMUM.

YOU CAN SWITCH OUT CARDS IN YOUR DECK WITH OTHER CARDS YOU'VE RECEIVED BETWEEN GAMES, BUT NO TRADING



YOU CAN KEEP PLAYING REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU WIN, BUT YOUR WIN/LOSS RECORD WILL DETERMINE PRIZES.

IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE EARLY FOR SOME REASON, SUCH AS, I DON'T KNOW REALIZING YOU CAN'T WIN ANY PRIZES, PLEASE OFFICIALLY DROP OUT. IT'LL MESS UP THE PAIRINGS IF YOU DON'T

SERIOUSLY LET ME KNOW DON'T BE A JERK.

EACH ROUND IS BEST TWO OF THREE WITHIN A FIFTY MINUTE TIME LIMIT. LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF YOU FINISH A ROUND EARLY. WE COULD FINISH EARLY AND HAPPILY OR WE COULD BE HERE ALL NIGHT.

I WILL ABUSE MY MOVIE SELECTION PRIVILEGES IF YOU MAKE ME STAY HERE LATER THAN NECESSARY

LASTLY, THE STORE HAS A RESTROOM WHICH YOU MAY USE WITH PERMISSION, BUT DON'T MAKE A MESS, WASH YOUR HANDS, AND FOR GOODNESS SAKE, CLOSE THE DOOR.

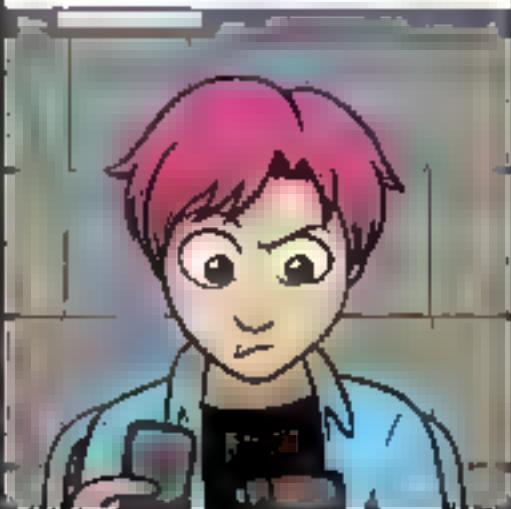
I KNOW MOST OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE SAYING THAT ISN'T NECESSARY, BUT AS I'VE SADLY LEARNED, THAT'S NOT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN



ENERGY EFFICIENT EFFICIENT,  
NOT EFFICIENT NOT EFFICIENT  
BUT PRETTY DAMN COOL

COOL, COOL, WEAK. SELL BACK  
TO STORE, WEAK, THROW AT  
JUSTIN LATER. COOL

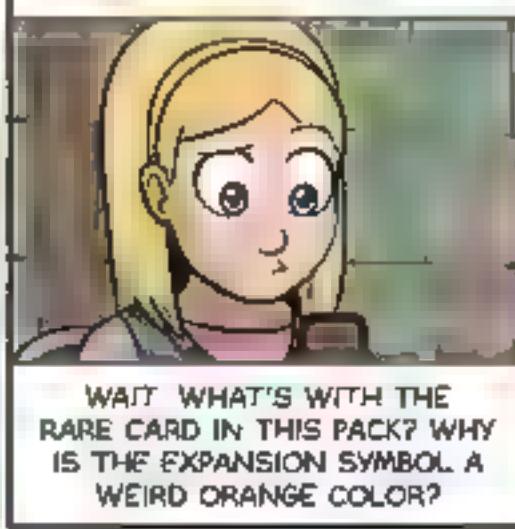
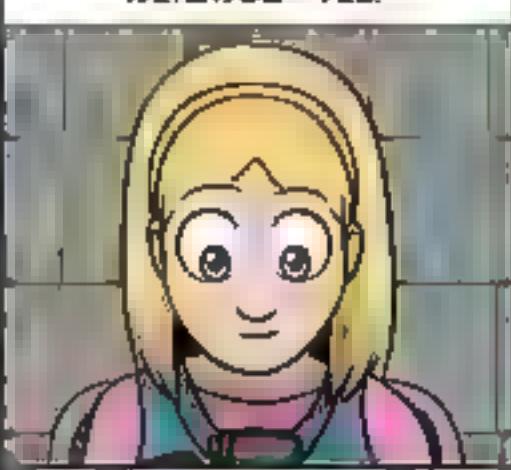
SORT SORT  
SORT SORT



VAMPIRE. ANOTHER VAMPIRE  
(MAN I'VE GOT A LOT OF  
VAMPIRES) SPELL.. SOME SORT  
OF ANTELOPE THING? SPELL.  
WEREWOLF! YES!

I SHOULD HAVE JUST ENOUGH  
OF THE RIGHT CARDS FOR MY  
WEREWOLF PONY DECK!

WELL, IT'S A VAMPIRE,  
SO I GUESS IT DOESN'T  
OH MY GOD



## O.P. Aludrakrala

5 Attack / 5 Health

Costs 5 Energy to play Vampire.

Flies, cannot be the target of spells. Only one O.P. Aludrakrala may be in play at a time.

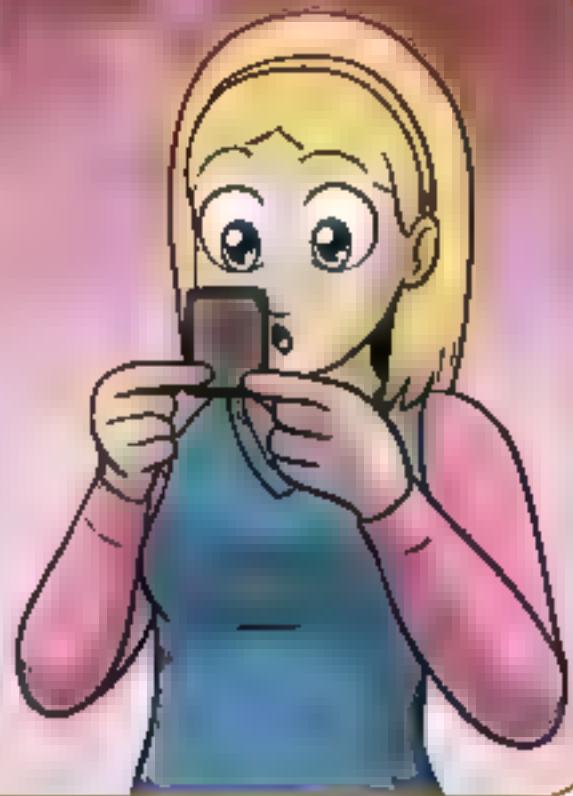
Whenever O.P. Aludrakrala kills a monster it gains a permanent +1 bonus to attack and health.

Each other vampire you control gets +X to their attack and health, where X equals the number of +1 bonuses on O.P. Aludrakrala.



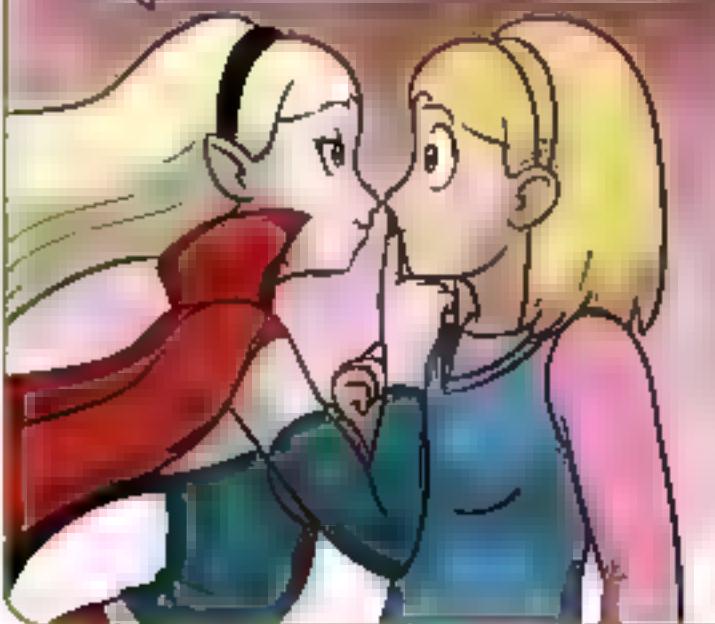
WELL, NOW,  
WOULD YOU LOOK  
AT THAT!

LOOKS LIKE  
SOMEONE  
SHOULD BUILD A  
VAMPIRE DECK!



AND THAT SOMEONE . . . IS YOU.

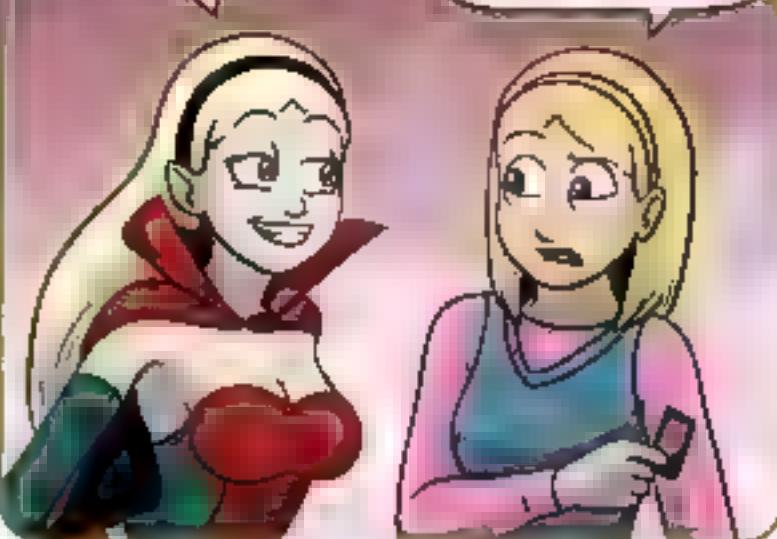
OR "US"? "ME"? I AM SORTA YOU WELL,  
PART OF YOU. THE PART THAT WANTS TO BUILD  
A VAMPIRE DECK HOW ARE PRONOUNS SUPPOSED  
TO WORK WITH THIS SORT OF THING?



RIGHT WHERE WAS  
I? OH YEAH. SEDUCING  
YOU INTO MAKING A  
VAMPIRE DECK.

WHY SEDUCING?  
I'M NOT GAY ALSO.  
YOU'RE ME A  
BENDY HOURGLASSY  
HOT ME BUT STILL

UM, HELLO? GRATUITOUSLY OVER-THE-TOP  
SEXY VAMPIRE? BESIDES WHICH, AFTER ALL THE  
TIME YOU'VE SPENT AS A BISEXUAL BOY YOU  
AIN'T EXACTLY "STRAIGHT" ANYMORE, EITHER.



NOT THAT THOUGHT AGAIN. THAT'S  
NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! WE'VE GOT  
CARD GAMES TO THINK ABOUT!

IT WOULD BE NICE TO WIN A FEW GAMES AND MAYBE TEACH WHAT'S HIS FACE A LESSON.

WHAT LESSON? THAT HE WAS RIGHT?

FAVORING WINNING OVER CREATIVITY WAS EXACTLY WHAT

TEN-SIDED? IS THAT HIS NAME?

SAY YOU SHOULD DO!

OH. MY GOD.

YOU'RE  
**ADORABLE!**

I KNOW RIGHT? I WAS GONNA SHOW UP IN FULL WOLF FORM, BUT WE PREFER WOLF FORMS THAT CAN'T TALK SO, YA KNOW COMPROMISE!

WELL, I LOVE IT

VERY CUTE

THANK YOU!

RIGHT BACK TO ARGUING. VAMPIRES ARE A THEME!

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY WE'D BE USING THEM!

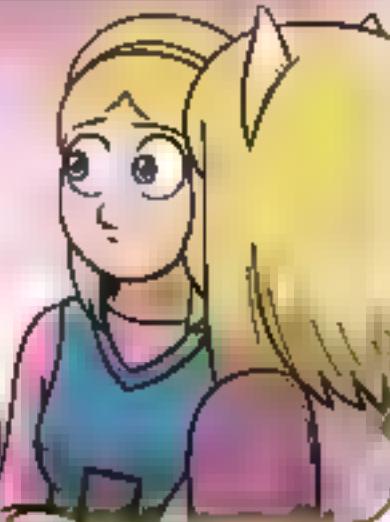
HISS!

RUFF!

LOOK  
YOU'VE GOT  
A POINT

MAKING A DECK SHE  
DOESN'T LIKE IN ORDER  
TO WIN WOULD BE DOING  
WHAT TEN-SIDED SAID  
SHE SHOULD DO.

YES! IT WOULD  
BE PROVING HIM  
RIGHT!



BUT IF IT TURNS OUT  
SHE WANTS TO MAKE THIS  
VAMPIRE DECK, AND SHE  
DOESN'T JUST BECAUSE OF  
WHAT TEN-SIDED THINKS,  
ISN'T THAT EVEN WORSE?

ISN'T THAT  
ALLOWING  
HIM POWER  
OVER HER

AND YEAH, WE WERE ALL  
ABOUT JUST TRYING TO MAKE  
A FUN DECK FROM A LIMITED  
POOL OF CARDS, BUT THAT  
WAS BEFORE WE THOUGHT WE  
HAD ANY CHANCE OF WINNING!

WE AT  
LEAST  
DON'T WANT  
TO GET  
CLOBBERED  
RIGHT?



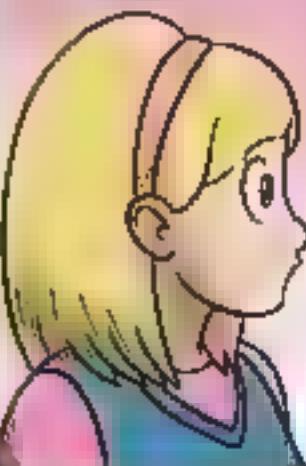
UH... HM

I'M SURE WE CAN  
MAKE A DECENT  
ENOUGH DECK WITH  
THE RIGHT ENERGY  
TYPES FOR WERE-  
WOLVES AND  
PONIES.

WE MIGHT NEED TO  
INCLUDE SOME OTHER  
MONSTER TYPES, BUT  
THE PONIES ARE ALL  
ABOUT FRIENDSHIP.  
IT'LL STILL FIT THE  
NARRATIVE

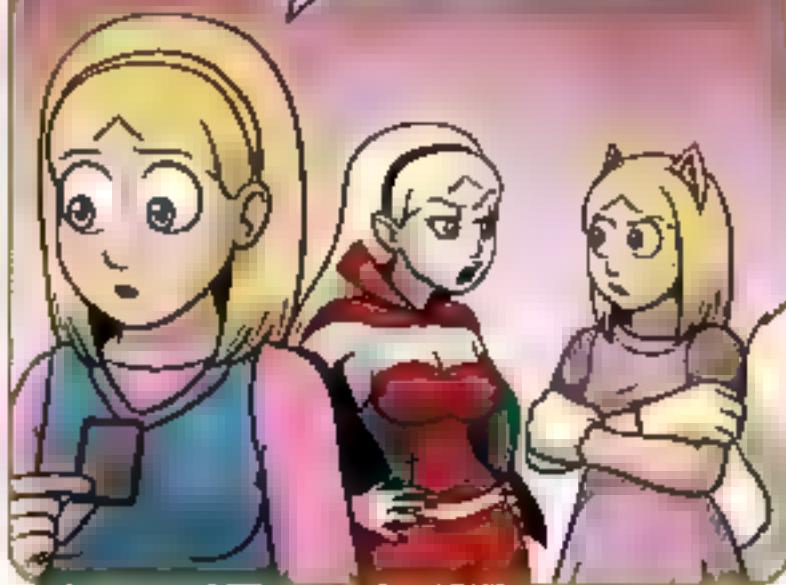
"DECENT ENOUGH"  
ISN'T ENCOURAGING  
AND THEY'RE NOT  
PONIES. THEY'RE NOT  
EVEN LITTLE

NOT REALLY  
NO, BUT YOU  
KNOW THAT'S  
WHY SHE WANTS  
TO USE PEGASUS  
UNICORNS.



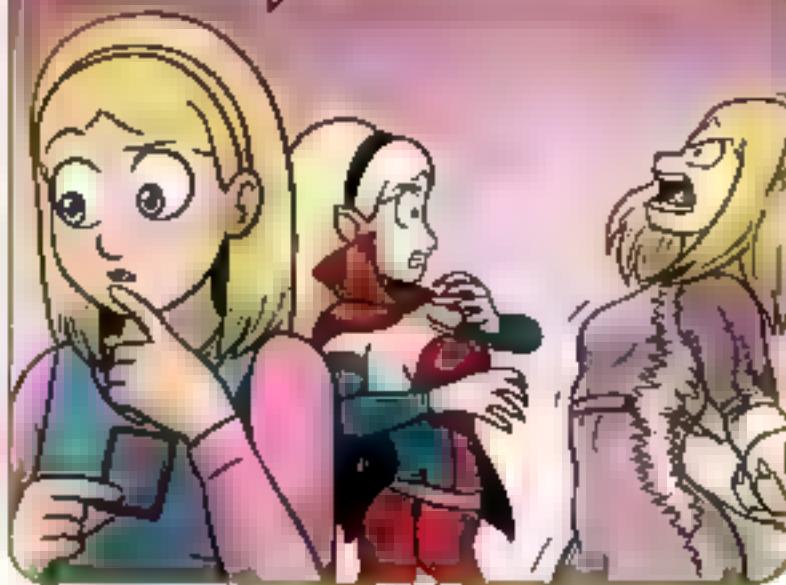
YOU KNOW THE ENERGY COST OF A LOT OF THE WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRES ONLY NEED ONE OF THE ENERGY SPENT TO BE OF A SPECIFIC TYPE..

AND THE SPELLS THAT GO WITH THE VAMPIRE'S TYPE ARE TOTALLY EVIL, BUT I HAVE SOME GOOD TREE-BASED SPELLS THAT ALSO AREN'T TOO ENERGY SPECIFIC..



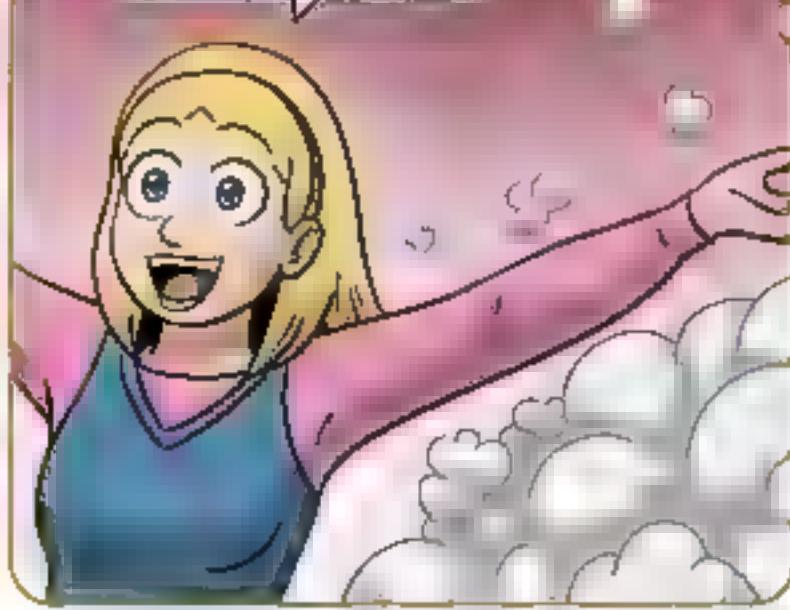
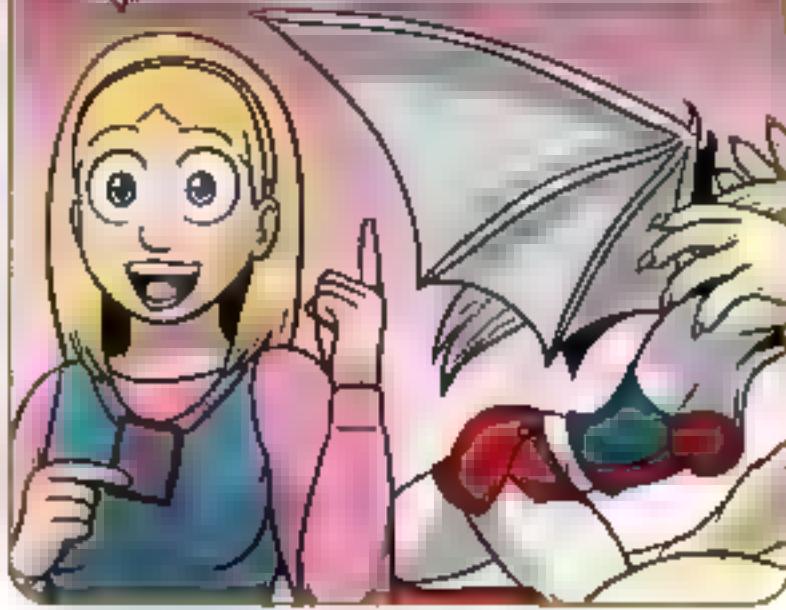
AND O.P IS GOOD ON HIS OWN IN THIS SETTING EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY VAMPIRE MINIONS IN PLAY

THE AVERAGE STORY IS LOW ON GOOD VAMPIRES, BUT WHAT IF THE WEREWOLVES WERE TRYING TO REFORM A GROUP OF THEM, AND WERE SUCCEEDING?



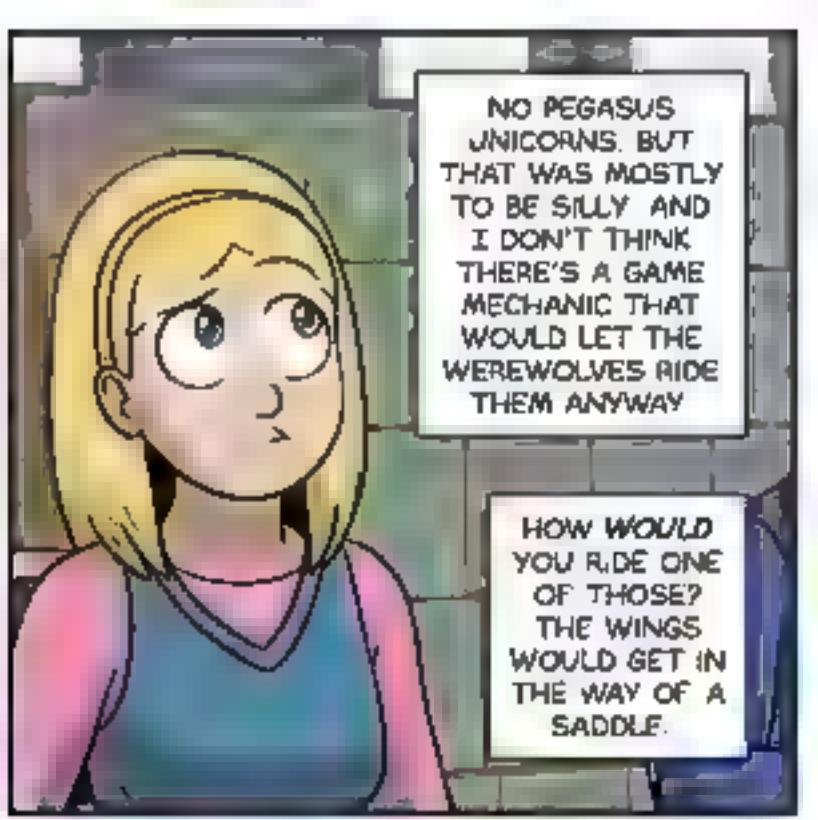
A VAMPIRE CLAN THAT WANTS TO USE THEIR UNNATURAL POWER TO DEFEND NATURE AND MAKE AMENDS FOR PAST DEEDS! THAT'S IT!

THE VAMPIRES AND WEREWOLVES WILL WORK TOGETHER!





OKAY SO VAMPIRES AND WEREWOLVES TOGETHER HAS BEEN DONE BUT THAT'S WHAT THIS SET OF CARDS IS ABOUT DAMMIT I CAN STILL COME UP WITH SOME FUN STUFF FOR THEM.

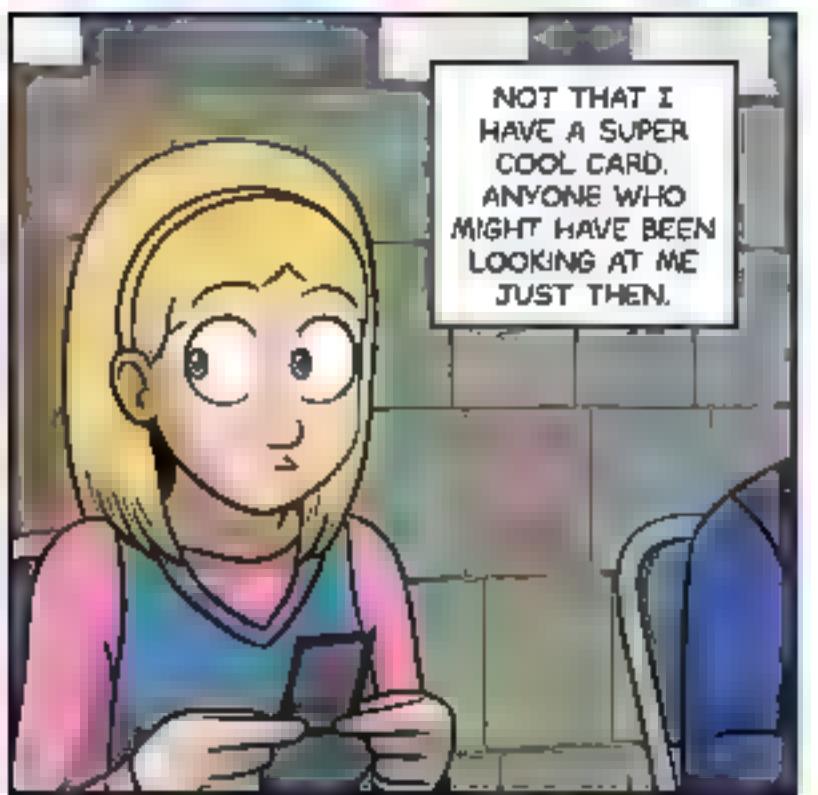


NO PEGASUS UNICORNS. BUT THAT WAS MOSTLY TO BE SILLY AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S A GAME MECHANIC THAT WOULD LET THE WEREWOLVES RIDE THEM ANYWAY

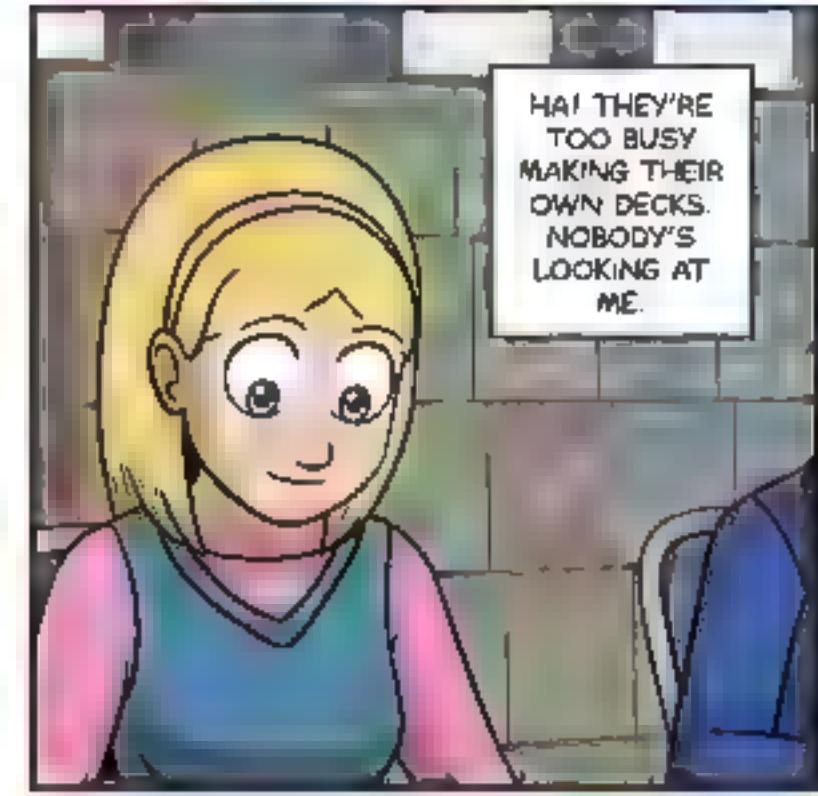
HOW WOULD YOU RIDE ONE OF THOSE? THE WINGS WOULD GET IN THE WAY OF A SADDLE.



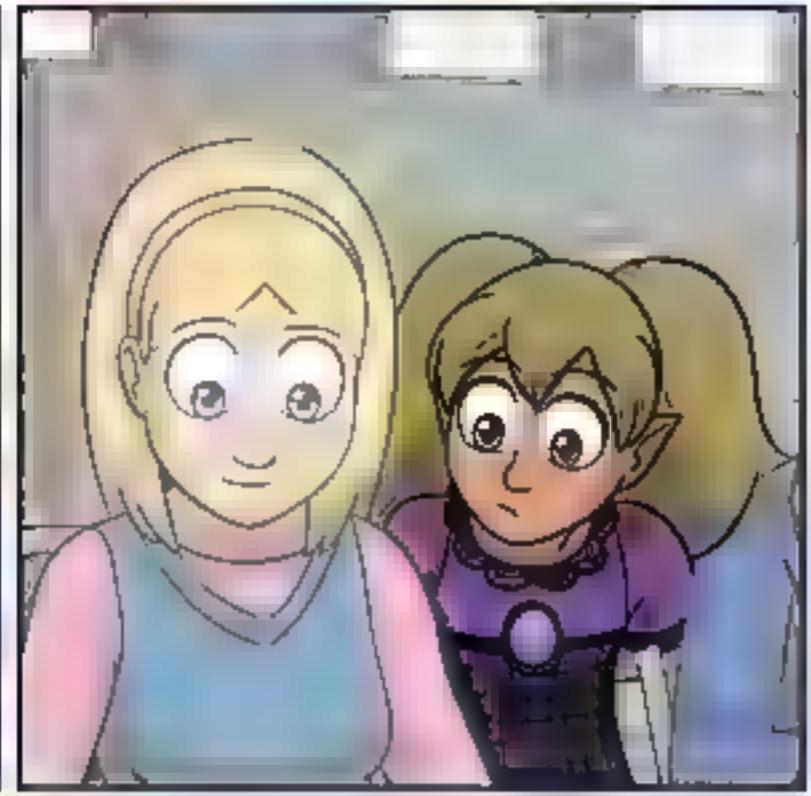
ANYWAY NOW I GET SEXY VAMPIRES AND COOL WERE WOLVES, AND I CAN USE ALW- WHATEVER!



NOT THAT I HAVE A SUPER COOL CARD. ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT ME JUST THEN.



HAI THEY'RE TOO BUSY MAKING THEIR OWN DECKS. NOBODY'S LOOKING AT ME.



ROUND  
ONE PAIRINGS  
ARE UP!

Tedd VS LARRY



Luke VS RICH



Sarah VS GEORGE



TENSAIDED VS Some Guy

AND OTHER PAIRINGS  
NOBODY CARES ABOUT!



MWUH-HAHAHA...

SO... YOU BEEN PLAYING THIS GAME LONG?

WELL, UH... SORT OF? MOSTLY JUST COMPUTER GAMES OF IT AND PRE-CONSTRUCTED DECKS...

SHUFFLE  
SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE  
SHUFFLE

AH, SO YOU'VE ONLY JUST STARTED COLLECTING.

"COLLECTING" IS A BIT OF A STRETCH. I CAN'T REALLY BUY A TON OF CARDS ON MY ALLOWANCE.

ALLOWANCE?  
UH. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

SHUFFLE

EIGHTEEN. WHY?

OH! AH NO REASON. I'M TWENTY

O...KAY THEN.

THIS GUY'S ACTING WEIRD.  
AND WHY DOES HE CARE HOW OLD I

WAIT A MINUTE IT'S OBVIOUS!

HE'S GAY!

SHUFFLE  
SHUFFLE

I KNEW SOME GAY GUYS LIKED GIRLY-LOOKING GUYS!

UNLESS I'M JUST THAT GIRLY, BUT COME ON. EVEN IF I LOOK GIRLY MY VOICE ISN'T THAT GIRLY... IS IT? ...NAH

I COULD BE WRONG, BUT NO. NO. HE'S TOTALLY INTO ME

OH CRAP WHAT DO I DO? WHAT IF HE STARTS HITTING ON ME? WHAT IF

WAIT SO WHAT IF HE DOES?

I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO DO ANYTHING WITH HIM. AND BEING GAY DOESN'T MAKE HIM BAD.

JUSTIN'S ONE OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS, AND WHEN GRACE IS MALE... DON'T THINK LIKE A JERK, DAMMIT

ALL I HAVE TO DO IF HE STARTS FLIRTING IS NOT FLIRT BACK, RIGHT? IT'LL BE SUPER OBVIOUS I'M NOT INTERESTED.

HECK, IT SHOULD BE FLATTERING THAT HE THINKS I'M CUTE, RIGHT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CUT MY DECK?

JH... NO THANKS. I'M SURE IT'S SHUFFLED.

FLATTERING.

CREEPY AND FLATTERING

OKAY THE EASIEST WAY TO HAVE TIME TO GET TO KNOW JUSTIN AND... THAT GIRL IS TO LOSE QUICKLY

I ONLY NEED TO PLAY WELL ENOUGH TO NOT BE OBVIOUS ABOUT IT

I SUMMON DIMINUTIVE FAIRY

YOU'RE USING FAIRIES? PFFT GAY

Many time consuming turns later

THAT'S GAME

And so, the noble wizard Sarah continued to defend the land



At her side were the mighty werewolves and the sexy vampires, whom she ruled by virtue of being the mightiest and sexiest of all



Her foe, the evil George, continued his bid to

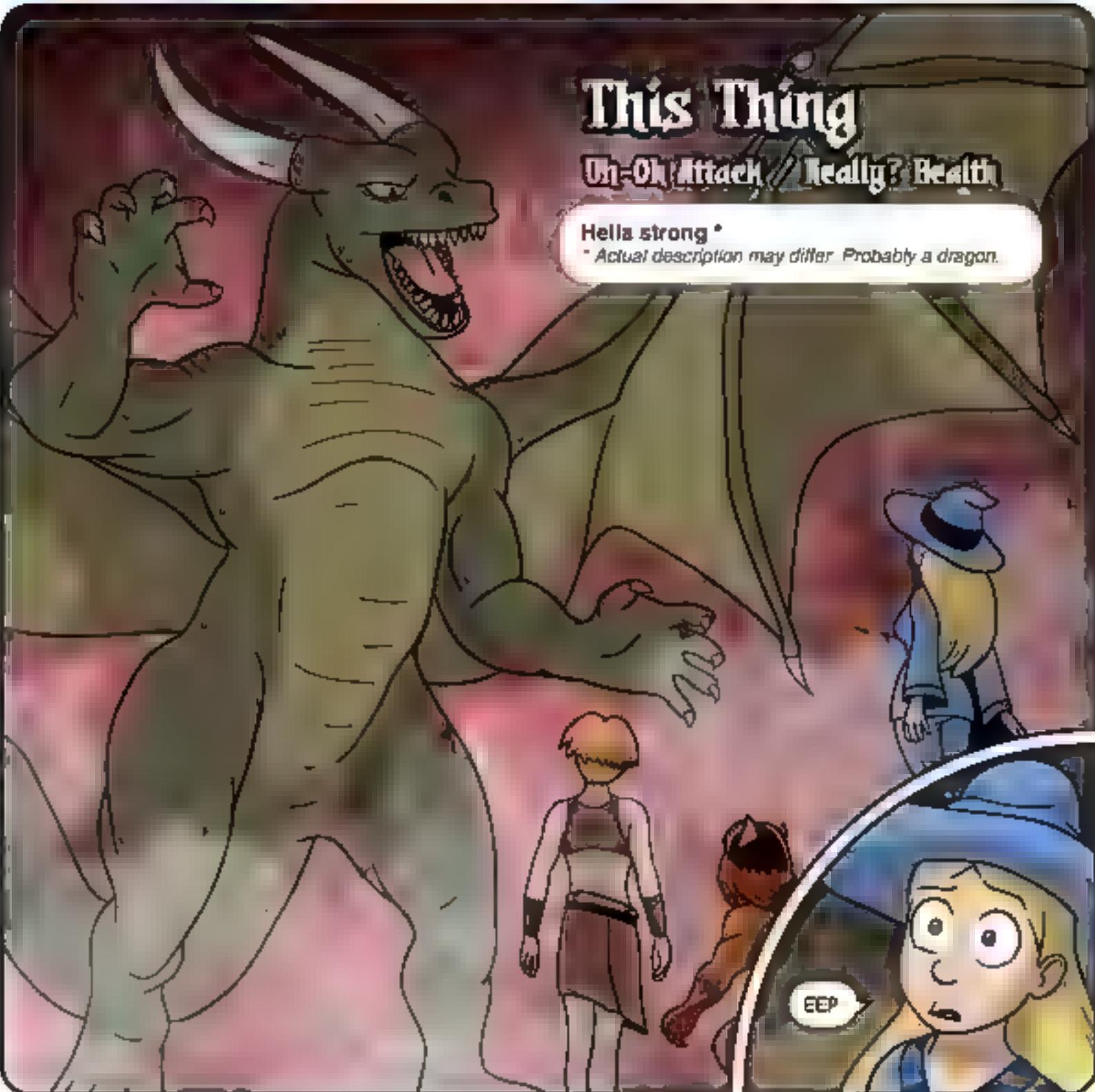


# This Thing

Un-Oh! Attack // Really? Health

Hella strong \*

\* Actual description may differ. Probably a dragon.



WITH O.P. ALUDRAKRALA IN YOUR DECK  
YOU COULD WIN THE WHOLE TOURNAMENT!  
SHOW WHAT S-HIS-NAME BEARDED V'DEO  
STORE GUY WHO'S BOSS!

SO? YOU GOT A BUNCH  
OF VAMPIRES AND ALL  
WITH ABILITIES THAT  
COMPLIMENT OR BOOST  
EACH OTHER!

HECK YOU EVEN  
GOT A COUPLE  
THRALLS THAT CAN  
BE SACRIFICED TO  
HEAL VAMPIRES!



IT'D JUST BE  
ONE CARD OUT  
OF FORTY...



REPRESENTED BY TEDD  
AND GRACE BECAUSE THE  
REAL ART WAS GROSS.



YOU DON'T EVEN  
NEED O.P. TO MAKE A  
GOOD VAMPIRE DECK BUT  
WITH O.P... MMM...

BUT I  
DON'T EVEN  
REALLY LIKE  
VAMPIRES!



I MIGHT JUST  
REPRESENT A PART  
OF YOUR MIND  
BUT I STILL HAVE  
FEELINGS, YOU KNOW



BUT I DON'T! I JUST LIKE  
THE STUPID SEXY STORIES  
PEOPLE WRITE ABOUT THEM!  
THEY'RE MOSTLY JUST  
UNDEAD BAD GUY JERKS!



WELL, MAKE UP A  
SEXY VAMPIRE STORY  
WHERE THEY'RE GOOD



MAYBE THE  
THRALLS WERE  
JERKS?



SO DON'T PLAY "AS"  
THEM. STOP THINKING ABOUT  
THE DECKS STORY AND  
FOCUS ON WINNING.

GOOD GUYS WHO  
ENTHRALL PEOPLE AND  
DRINK THEIR BLOOD?



ALL THE SPELLS I HAVE  
FOR THEIR ENERGY TYPES ARE  
TOTALLY EVIL, TOO! "DEATH"  
THIS, "PLAGUE" THAT... I DON'T  
WANT TO PLAY AS THESE GUYS!

And so, the land was burned to a crisp.

YOU WOULD'VE WON THAT GAME IF YOU'D PLAYED SMARTER.

OH REALLY

YA REALLY YOUR DECK IS PRETTY GOOD. BUT YOU'RE PLAYING TOO DEFENSIVELY YOU NEED TO ATTACK MORE

I... WHAT?

EARLY IN THE GAME WHEN YOU HAD TWO MONSTERS AND I HAD ONE? YOU SHOULD'VE ATTACKED.

EITHER YOU WOULD'VE HIT ME WITH BOTH, OR YOU'D HAVE HIT ME WITH ONE AND WE EACH WOULD'VE LOST A MONSTER.

EITHER WAY YOU'D HAVE COME OUT AHEAD

THAT THING COST ME SEVEN ENERGY TO SUMMON AND WAS SITTING IN MY HAND SINCE TURN ONE. YOU COULD'VE BEATEN ME WELL BEFORE I DREW ENOUGH ENERGY TO PLAY IT

OH. UM. THANK YOU.  
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND

GOOD. NOW SHUFFLE YOUR DECK. THESE ROUNDS ARE BEST TWO OUT OF THREE YOU KNOW

UH. RIGHT.. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER ADVICE?

SURE. JUST DON'T EXPECT ANY DURING A GAME OR DURING ROUNDS AGAINST OTHER PEOPLE

NOT A PROBLEM!  
THANK YOU.

WHAT-EVS.

WOW! THAT WAS FAST DID YOU WIN?

NOT NEARLY FAST ENOUGH, AND I SORT OF WON, YEAH.

"SORT OF"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HE WAS GOING EASY ON ME. HE AT LEAST LET ME WIN THE FIRST GAME DUNNO ABOUT THE SECOND. BUT IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME

HE WHAT? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE LARRY.. OR IS HE RICHARD? I GET THEM CONFUSED

LARRY MUST NOT BE ATTRACTED TO THE REST OF THE GUYS HERE

UM.. WHAT?

DUDE WAS TOTALLY HITTING ON ME! HE WAS CONDESCENDING, TALKING HIMSELF UP MAKING CRAP UP SLIPPING IN CREEPY INNUENDO.

NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE LARRY AND A BUNCH OF OTHER GUYS WHO HANG OUT HERE, AND GO TO MY SCHOOL AND.

HOW MANY RUDE GAY GUYS WHO CAN'T TAKE A HINT HANG OUT HERE?!

UM, ZERO, AS FAR AS I KNOW LARRY LIKES GIRLS. I'M PRETTY SURE YOU'RE JUST THAT GIRLY

WHAT? BUT.. SITTING  
RIGHT ACROSS.. MY  
VOICE.. FLATNESS.  
WHAT?"

YOUR VOICE IS PRETTY  
ANDROGYNOUS. AND  
NOT EVERY WOMAN  
HAS BIG, NOTICEABLE  
BREASTS.

OKAY.. I.. GUESS  
THAT'S POSSIBLE, BUT..  
BUT THAT DOESN'T  
MAKE HITTING ON ME  
LIKE THAT OKAY!

OF COURSE IT  
DOESN'T IT'S  
TO BE EXPECTED.  
THOUGH.

A DISPROPORTIONATE  
NUMBER AROUND HERE  
SEEM TO HAVE THEM FOR  
SOME REASON. BUT

IT IS?

BUT..  
I JUST SAID I KNOW A BUNCH  
OF GUYS WHO TREAT ME LIKE THAT  
SARAH'S DEALT WITH GUYS LIKE  
THAT, TOO. AND ELLEN. AND...

BUT.. THAT'S  
NOT OKAY!  
THAT SUCKS!

YEP

WELL, I FIGURE EVERY GIRL HAS  
TO DEAL WITH STUFF LIKE THAT

I'M ADDING "BRING  
BACK MAGIC HAMMERS  
FOR ALL WOMEN AGAIN"  
TO MY TO-DO LIST

I'M PRETTY  
SURE WE'D NEED  
AN IMMORTAL  
FOR THAT

I WILL FIND ONE

WELL, ANYWAY  
AT LEAST NOW  
YOU CAN SAY  
"I'M A DUDE".

AND HE'LL BE  
ALL "WHAAA"  
AND LEAVE  
YOU ALONE.

NO I  
DON'T WANT  
TO DO THAT

WHY  
NOT?



I DON'T WANT TO HAVE  
THAT CONVERSATION WITH  
HIM. DUDE COULD FREAK OUT  
IT ISN'T ANY OF HIS BUSINESS,  
ANYWAY THOSE PARTS ARE  
PRIVATE. DAMMIT

WELL, YOU  
COULD ALSO  
POINT OUT  
THAT WE'RE  
A COUPLE.

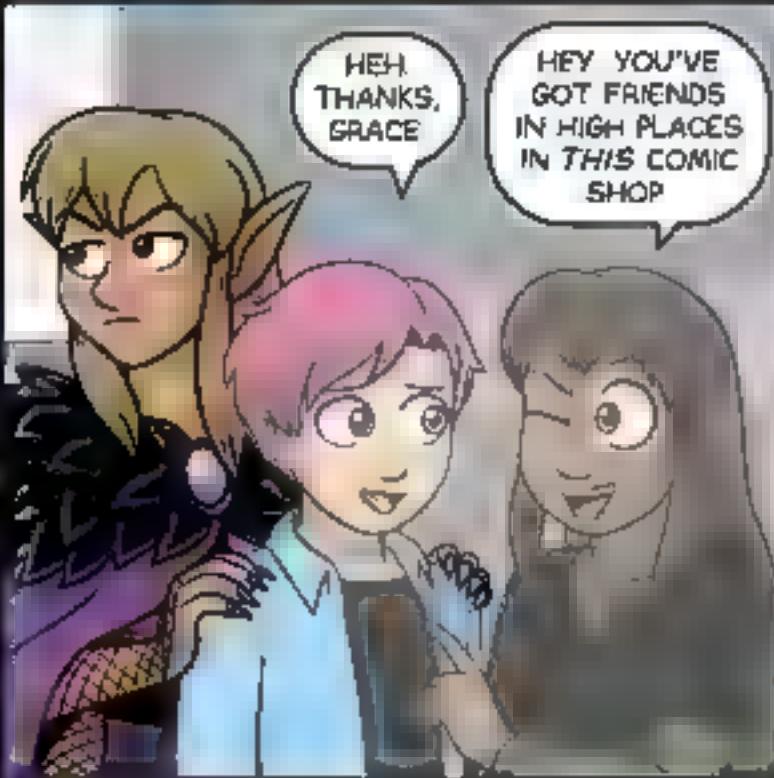
EH, TRUST ME WHEN  
I SAY THAT MIGHT NOT  
DISSUADE HIM. NO. IF HE  
BOthers ME AGAIN, I'M  
JUST GONNA TELL HIM  
TO STOP AS CLEARLY  
AS POSSIBLE.

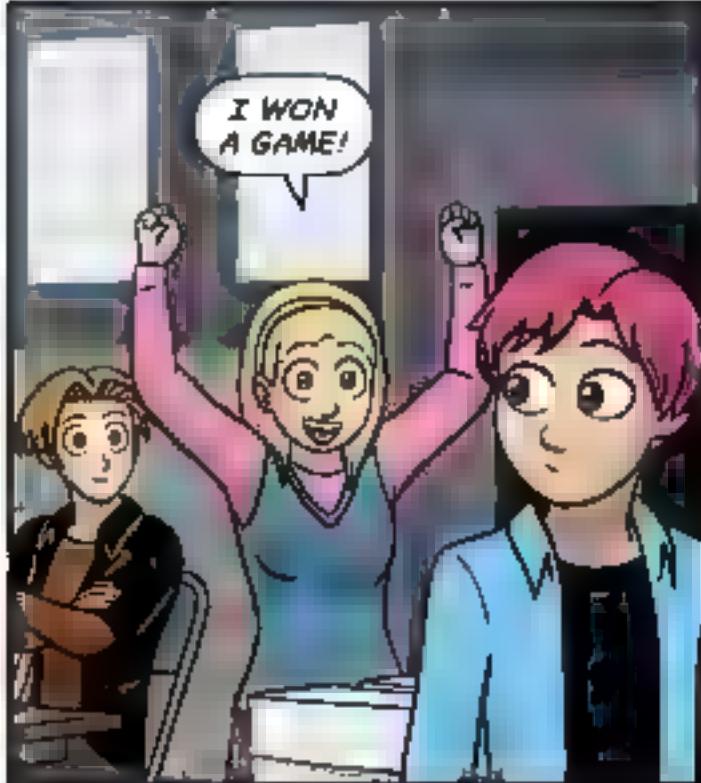
AND IF HE  
DOESN'T,  
JUSTIN OR I  
CAN THROW  
HIM OUT!



-SIGH- I THINK  
HE'S MORE CLUELESS  
THAN ANYTHING. I  
REALLY HOPE IT DOESN'T  
COME TO TELLING HIM  
TO LEAVE

I WAS BEING  
LITERAL, BUT  
YEAH, WE COULD  
DO THAT, TOO





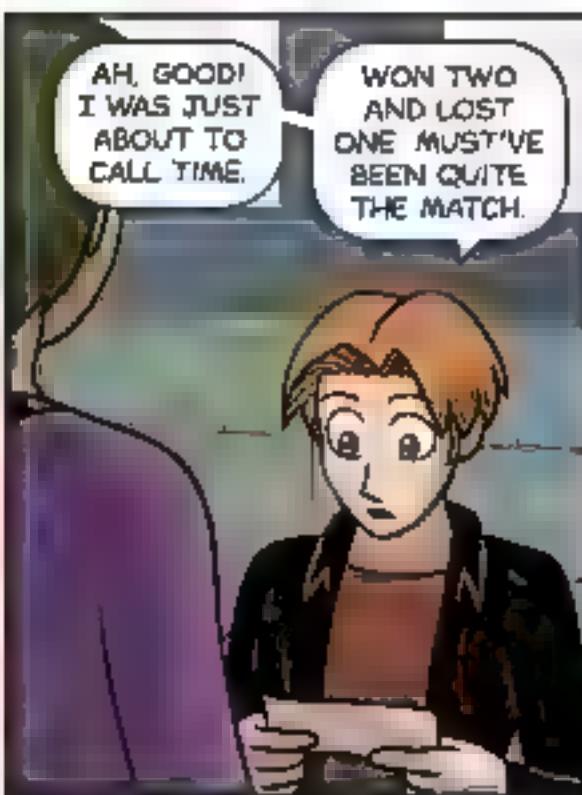
MY ROUND  
ONE RESULTS.

AH, GOOD!  
I WAS JUST  
ABOUT TO  
CALL TIME.

WON TWO  
AND LOST  
ONE MUST'VE  
BEEN QUITE  
THE MATCH.

IT WAS OKAY I SHOULD'VE TAKEN  
A MULLIGAN IN GAME TWO.

DREW A CARD  
YOU COULDN'T  
BEAR TO SHUFFLE  
BACK IN, EH?



SEVERAL GOOD CARDS COSTING  
THREE ENERGY EACH, AND TWO ENERGY  
FIGURED I WAS BOUND TO DRAW  
ANOTHER ENERGY SOON ENOUGH.

BUT NOPE?

BUUUT NOPE.

ABOUT TIME  
YOUR MATCH  
ENDED.

DUDE'S DECK WAS SLOW  
BUT TRICKY, MAN. SO HOW  
BADLY DID YOU MESS UP  
TALKING TO THAT GIRL?

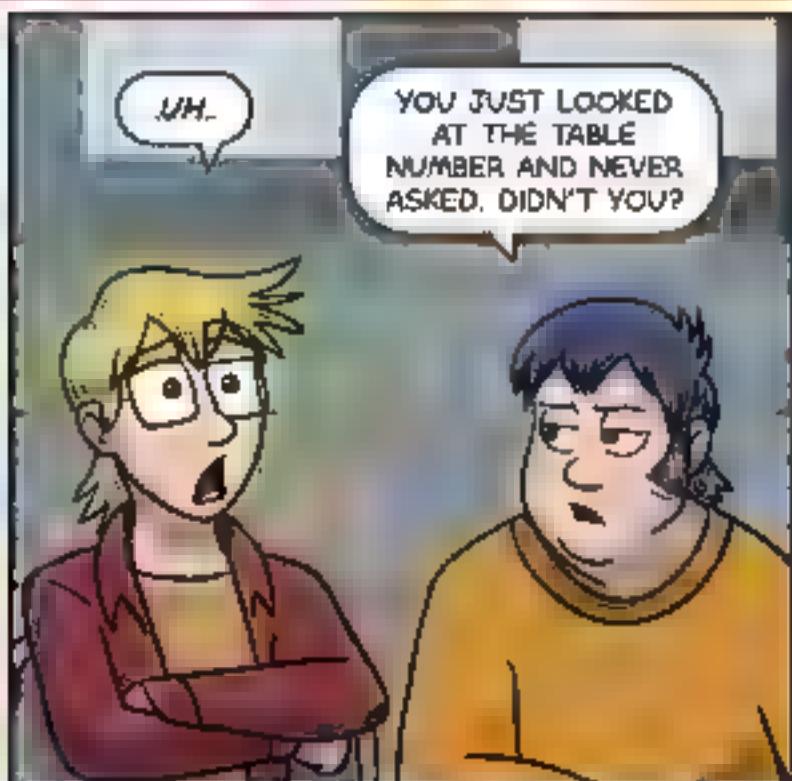


I DID EVERY-  
THING YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO.

YEAH, WELL, I'VE  
READ THE SAME WALK-  
THROUGHS AS YOU, PAL.  
AT LEAST TELL ME  
HER NAME?

UH...

YOU JUST LOOKED  
AT THE TABLE  
NUMBER AND NEVER  
ASKED, DIDN'T YOU?



HER NAME! HOW DID I NOT ASK HER NAME?!

ALRIGHT RELAX ROUND ONE PAIRINGS ARE STILL POSTED. WE'LL JUST GO LOOK AND SEE WHAT HER NAME IS.

ROUND TWO PAIRINGS ARE UP!

GAH!

ALRIGHT RELAX ROUND ONE PAIRINGS AREN'T STILL POSTED BUT WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT FROM THE ROUND TWO PAIRINGS.

WAY TO GO, LUKE. SPENT THE WHOLE ROUND TRYING TO BEAT A HOMOPHOBIC INSTEAD OF TALKING TO JUSTIN AND GIRL.

WELL, LET'S SEE WHO I'M UP AGAINST THIS ROUND...

A BYE?

YEAH, SORRY ODD NUMBER OF PLAYERS. THE SYSTEM SELECTED YOU TO SIT OUT THIS ROUND.

ON THE PLUS SIDE, IT'S A FREE WIN, BUT YEAH.

IT KIND OF SUCKS TO HAVE AN ENTIRE ROUND FREE...

UH, ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN,  
I DID WIN THE FIRST ROUND...

I GAVE UP TRYING TO FIGURE OUT  
HOW THEIR SYSTEM DETERMINES BYES A LONG TIME AGO. ALL I KNOW  
IS THAT'S WHAT THE COMPUTER SAID AND I HAVE TO GO BY THAT

RIGHT  
RIGHT CAN'T  
BE HELPED

YAY I GOT  
EXACTLY WHAT  
I NEEDED  
CELEBRATE THE  
@#\$\$ING GOOD  
TIMES



OKAY LOOKS  
LIKE SHE'S AT  
TABLE THREE

NO THAT HALF  
OF THE TABLE IS  
TABLE FOUR.

FINE, SHE'S  
AT "HALF TABLE"  
FOUR. WHATEVER.  
THAT WOULD BE

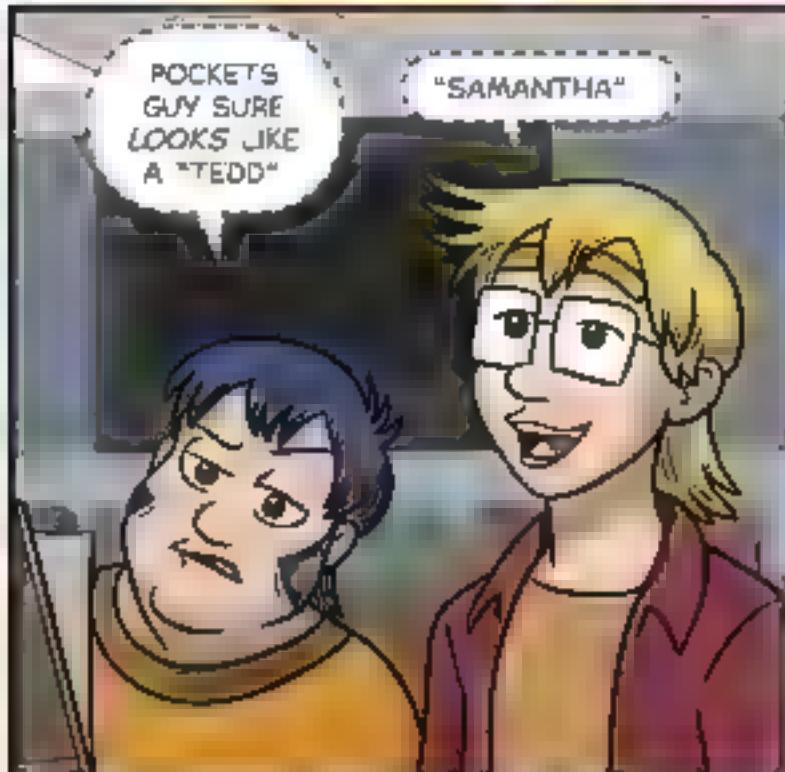


WHAT DO  
YOU HAVE IN  
ALL THOSE  
POCKETS?

EVERYTHING I  
COULD POSSIBLY  
NEED EVER.

POCKETS  
GUY SURE  
LOOKS LIKE  
A "TEDD"

"SAMANTHA"



SO. UH. I SEE  
YOU'VE GOT SOME  
DICE THERE ROLL  
TO SEE WHO GOES  
FIRST?

I WILL BREAK YOU.

THAT'S A  
MOVIE QUOTE,  
RIGHT?

...RIGHT?

OKAY WELL...  
NO EXCUSES. I  
HAVE THE ENTIRE  
ROUND FREE

ONLY PROBLEM IS, JUSTIN'S AT  
THAT TABLE AND SUPER POWERFUL.  
GIRL IS BEHIND THE COUNTER.

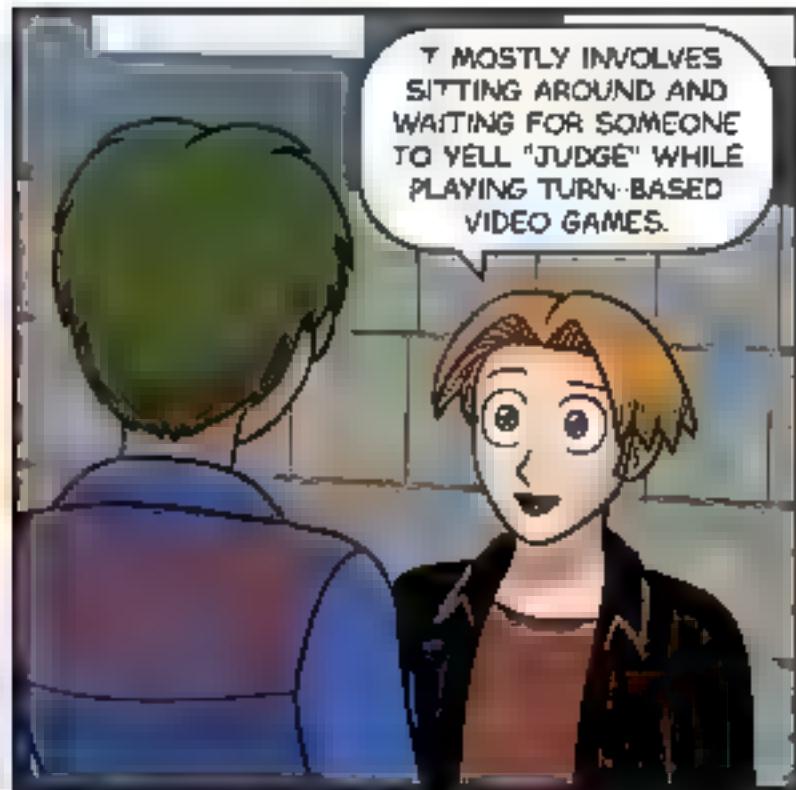
WHO DO  
I TALK TO  
FIRST?

I'VE GOTTA  
GET TO KNOW  
THESE TWO  
FIGURE OUT IF  
THEY'RE GOOD  
GUYS OR NOT

JUSTIN  
DEFINITELY  
JUSTIN.

JUSTIN  
FOREVER.





YOU'RE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOURSELF DURING THIS FREE ROUND ARE YOU?

WELL, UH...

THERE'S AN OPEN SEAT NEXT TO ME IF YOU'D LIKE TO SIT

NEXT TO YOU?

WELL, WE COULD MOVE THE CHAIR.

NO, THAT'S OKAY YEAH, I CAN SIT THERE

COOL, HERE I'LL MAKE IT EASIER TO GET BY

I'D JUST GIVE YOU THE END SEAT BUT I NEED TO BE ABLE TO QUICKLY GET UP N' JUDGE.

RIGHT YES.  
NOT A PROBLEM,  
GOTTA JUDGE  
THE PEOPLES.

NOW I'M TRAPPED WHY  
DIDN'T I SAY "YES" TO  
MOVING THE CHAIR I DON'T  
NEED TO SIT NEXT TO HIM  
TO TALK TO HIM I FAIL AT  
ALL OF THE THINGS

WHAT ON EARTH  
DID THAT OTHER COMIC  
SHOP DO TO YOU?

THAT OTHER COMIC SHOP?

THAT CARD IS SO GAY

I LOST? THAT'S GAY

LOOK AT THE GUY ON THIS CARD! SO GAY

THAT RULE IS GAY

THAT GAY MECHANIC IS SO GAY

THAT IS THE GAYEST THING THAT HAS EVER BEEN GAY

GAY

STAR WARS OR STAR TREK?

THAT'S WHAT I'D RATHER ASK YOU THAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

STAR. WHAT?

OH, WELL... APPLES AND ORANGES, REALLY UNLESS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ABRAMS TREK, IN WHICH CASE I'D GO WITH STAR WARS.

THOUGH ABRAMS TREK IS A GUILTY PLEASURE

EVEN THE STAR WARS PREQUELS?

HELL YEAH THE PREQUELS!

HORR BLE THEY MAY BE BUT MUCH TO TALK ABOUT THERE IS.

THEY'RE LIKE A CONVERSATION PIECE WITH LIGHTSABERS!

EXACTLY!

ALSO, THE CLONE WARS CARTOONS?

OH MY GOD THE CLONE WARS CARTOONS

HMMH. HMPH.  
YOUR TURN. IF  
YOU DARE

OF COURSE I DARE. WHAT  
ELSE AM I GONNA DO?

DRAW A CARD AND,  
AN ENERGY CARD! YES!  
I FINALLY GET TO  
SUMMON ALUORAKRALA  
IN YOUR FACE, TEN...

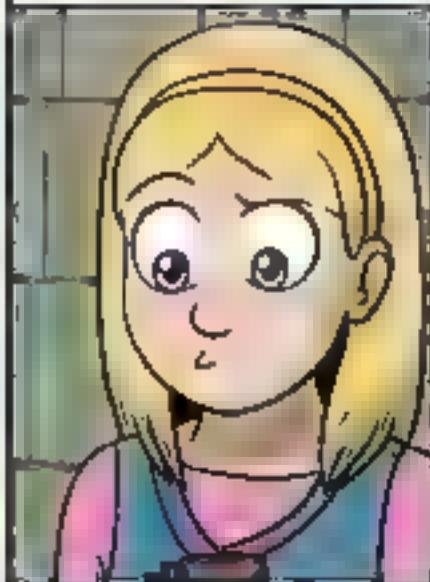


WAIT I'M PRETTY SURE  
HE WAS THINKING ABOUT  
CASTING SOMETHING. BUT  
HE LEFT THREE ENERGY  
FREE INSTEAD...

GEORGE WARNED ME  
ABOUT WHAT THAT  
MIGHT MEAN. AND NOT  
EVEN ALUORAKRALA IS  
PROTECTED FROM THAT

WELL, I DO HAVE  
THIS OTHER PRETTY  
GOOD FIVE ENERGY  
MONSTER. LET'S SEE  
WHAT HAPPENS...

I  
SUMMON  
BEEFY  
LYCAN-



## Cancel Spell!

Target spell does  
nothing and is  
discarded.

HAI NO  
MUSCULAR  
LYCANTHROPE  
FOR YOU!

BUT SHE  
WAS SO  
BEEFY!

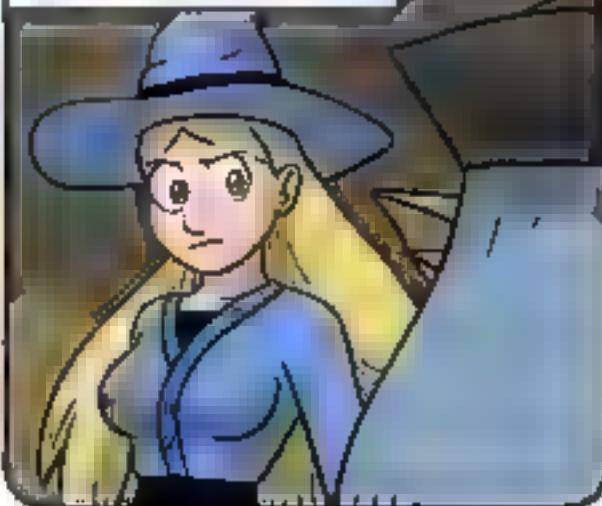
MWUH-  
HAHAHA



AND THAT'S ALL YOUR ENERGY USED UP SO UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO ATTACK...

GEORGE SAID I NEEDED TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE. AND MY WEREWOLF CAN BEAT THAT MERMAID BUT IF THAT MERMAID DAMAGES ME ITS ABILITY MEANS TEN-SIDED WOULD GET TO DRAW A CARD...

SHE'S ON GUARD DUTY YOUR TURN.



VERY WELL I SUMMON

## Big Pointy Teeth Drake!

3 Attack / 1 Health

Flies.



AND SINCE NEWLY SUMMONED MONSTERS CAN'T ATTACK RIGHT AWAY, I END MY TURN.



A SHAME YOUR "GUARD" WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP A FLYING--

## O.P. Aludra Krala OH YEAH!



AND THAT'S GAME. NOT EVEN MY POCKETS COULD SAVE ME.

OF COURSE ANYTHING MY POCKETS COULD HAVE DONE TO HELP ME WIN A CARD GAME WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DISHONORABLE.

IT WAS CLOSE

ALL THREE OF OUR GAMES WERE BUT YOU WON THE ROUND. CONGRATULATIONS.

THANKS. UH. I CAN TAKE UP THE RESULTS AFTER YOU SIGN IT I'M GONNA GO SAY HI TO SOMEONE ANYWAY

SURE. SO "TEDD" IS PRETTY DEFINITIVELY A MALE NAME IT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A FEMALE EQUIVALENT

UH. MAYBE? WHY DOES THAT MATTER?

MAYBE IT DOESN'T IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS IF IT DOES

STILL YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THE NAME "TESS" IN MIND

YOU KNOW JUST IN CASE IT DOES MATTER.

OH, XAY THEN. I'M... GOING TO GO TURN IN THE RESULTS...

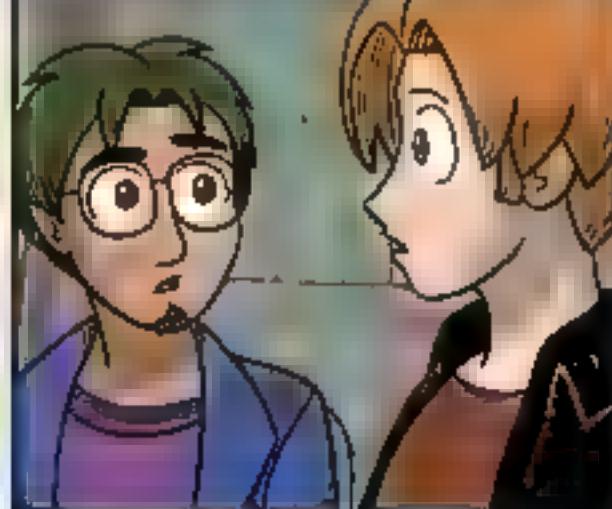
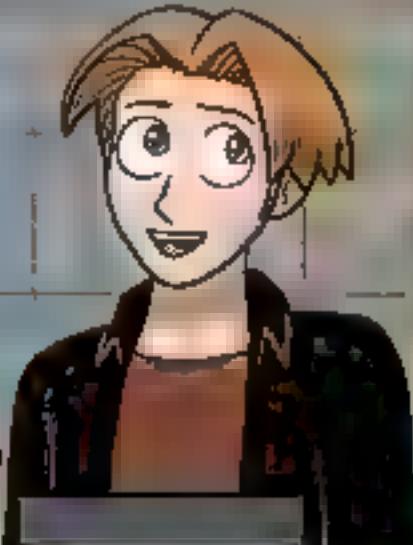
COOL BEANS.

YEAH BUT THEY HAD TO NERF GRIEVOUS BEFORE EPISODE THREE THEY HAD TO.

I KNOW I KNOW ALL THE CGI IN THE WORLD WOULDN'T MAKE ME BUY OBI-WAN MCGREGOR WINNING THAT FIGHT

THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN DOOKU.

YEAH, WHAT THE DOOKU WAS UP WITH DOOKU?



UH. HEY MY RESULTS.

HEY TEDD. ANOTHER VICTORY?

YEAH.

AWESOME



MAYBE DOOKU WAS JUST HAVING AN OFF DAY EVERY ONE CAN HAVE AN OFF-DAY

LKE IF BOTH DOOKU AND GRIEVOUS WERE JUST UP LATE PARTYING THE NIGHT BEFORE?



GRACE?



SQUEEEEEE :)

UH...

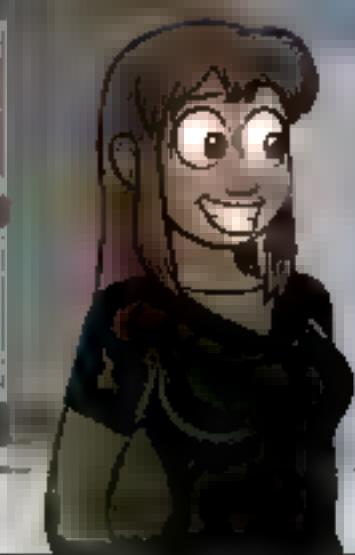


OH, JH... HI!  
SO HOW'D IT GO  
THIS ROUND?

WON TWO GAMES,  
LOST ONE AND  
UTTERLY CONFUSED  
BY MY OPPONENT

CONFUSED BY  
SAM? JH WHY?  
SAM'S NOT..  
CONFUSING.

HE SAID MY NAME  
WAS "MALE" AND THAT I  
SHOULD KEEP "TESS" IN  
MIND "IF IT MATTERS"



OH! THAT IS CONFUSING. "TEDD"  
CAN BE A GIRL'S NAME

IT'S SHORT FOR  
SOME GIRLY NAMES.  
LIKE THEODORA.

IT CAN? I'VE  
NEVER HEARD  
OF ANY GIRLS  
NAMED TEDD.



MUH. WELL. ANYWAY THAT'S  
NOT WHAT CONFUSED ME. IT  
WAS THE "IF IT MATTERS" PART

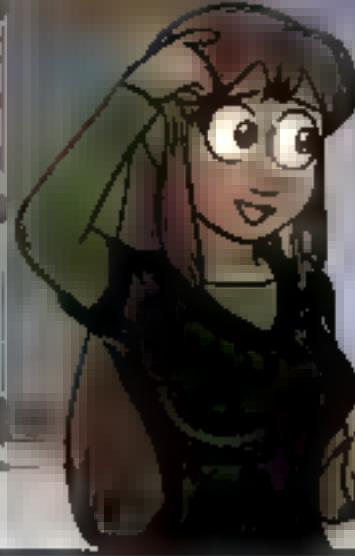
IF IT-- OH... HE  
PROBABLY THINKS  
YOU MIGHT BE  
TRANSGENDER.

WHAT?! I'M NOT  
TRANSFORMED!  
WELL, MY HAIR  
COLOR IS BUT



NO NO NO. YOU  
KNOW LIKE FEMALE  
GENDER UP HERE, MALE  
SEX DOWN THERE?

THAT'S A  
THING?



...

WHAT?



ALRIGHTY THEN...

ATTACK!

I BLOCK EACH OF THE WEREWOLVES.

I TRY TO CAST EXTRA POINTY FANGS ON MY VAMPIRE?

SIGH: YEAH I'VE GOT NOTHING TO CANCEL IT WITH. THAT'S GAME AND MATCH.

CONGRATULATIONS.

**VICTORY**

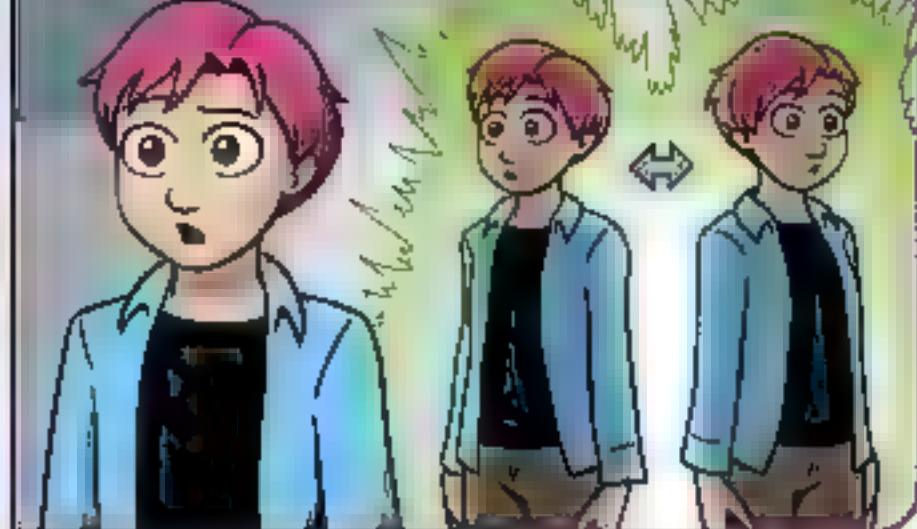


HOW IS THIS  
NOT SOMETHING  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT?

WHY AND  
HOW WOULD I  
LOOK UP SOME  
THING I HAVEN'T  
HEARD OF?

I MEAN, I'VE  
HEARD "TRANSGENDER"  
BEFORE BUT THE CONTEXT  
WAS ALWAYS ABOUT  
TRANSFORMATION.

LIKE Y'KNOW  
"ZAP" BOY BECOMES  
GIRL, OR GIRL BECOMES  
BOY THAT'S WHAT I  
THOUGHT IT MEANT



OH, WELL... I JUST SORTA FIGURED  
IT'S THE SORT OF THING YOU  
WOULD'VE LOOKED INTO EVEN IF  
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL IT

BUT I DON'T THINK  
THAT'S WHY YOU DO IT NOT  
ENTIRELY ANYWAY

I. OKAY SOMETIMES  
BEING TRANSFORMED DOES  
FEEL MORE RIGHT, BUT  
THAT'S JUST HOW I AM.



I NEVER SAID  
THERE WAS! YOU'RE  
JUST I THINK T'S  
"GENDER FLUID?"

I'M PRETTY  
SURE THAT APPLIES  
TO YOU

I'M-- THAT'S A  
THING? THERE'S A  
NAME FOR IT?

YES AND  
THERE'S NOTHING  
WRONG WITH IT

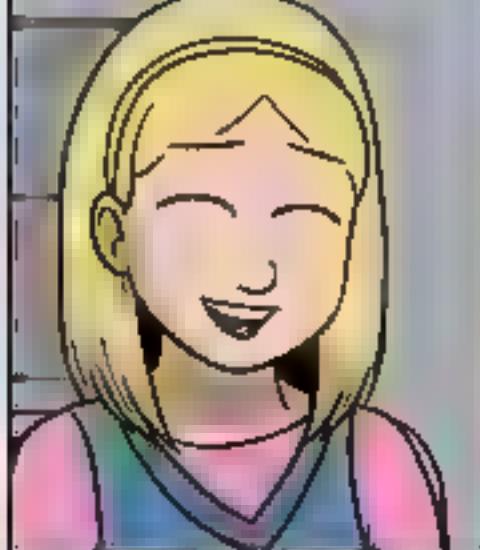
THERE'S A  
NAME FOR IT



YOU HAVE  
BESTED ME IN CARD  
GAME COMBAT

LIMITED CARD GAME COMBAT  
IN WHICH I COULD NOT UNLEASH MY  
FULL POWER, BUT I AM BESTED NONE-  
THELESS. HAVING WON TWO GAMES OUT  
OF THREE. THE ROUND IS YOURS.

WELL, UM. THANK  
YOU? YOU PLAYED  
WELL, TOO A LOT  
OF IT WAS--



LET IT BE  
KNOWN TO ALL  
THAT SARAH  
BROWN HAS  
PROVEN HERSELF  
IN THE CARD-  
STOCK RING!



ANY WHO WOULD  
DOUBT HER STATUS  
AS A GEEK, DOUBT  
NO MORE! SHE IS  
ONE OF US!



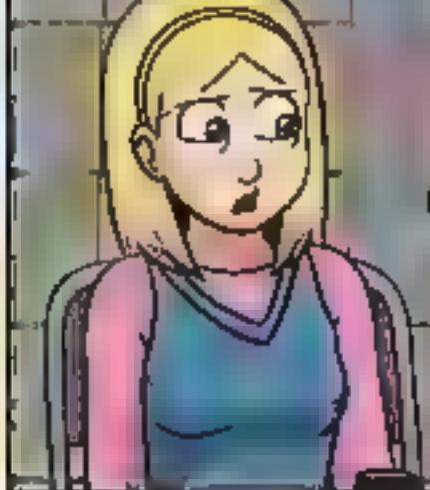
SHE BEAT  
TENSASIDEOP  
HUUH. GUESS  
SHE IS  
A GEEK!

MAYBE A  
LEVEL ONE  
GEEK.

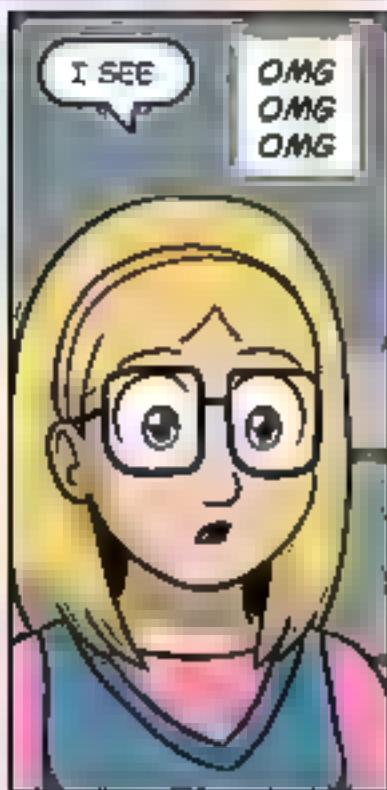
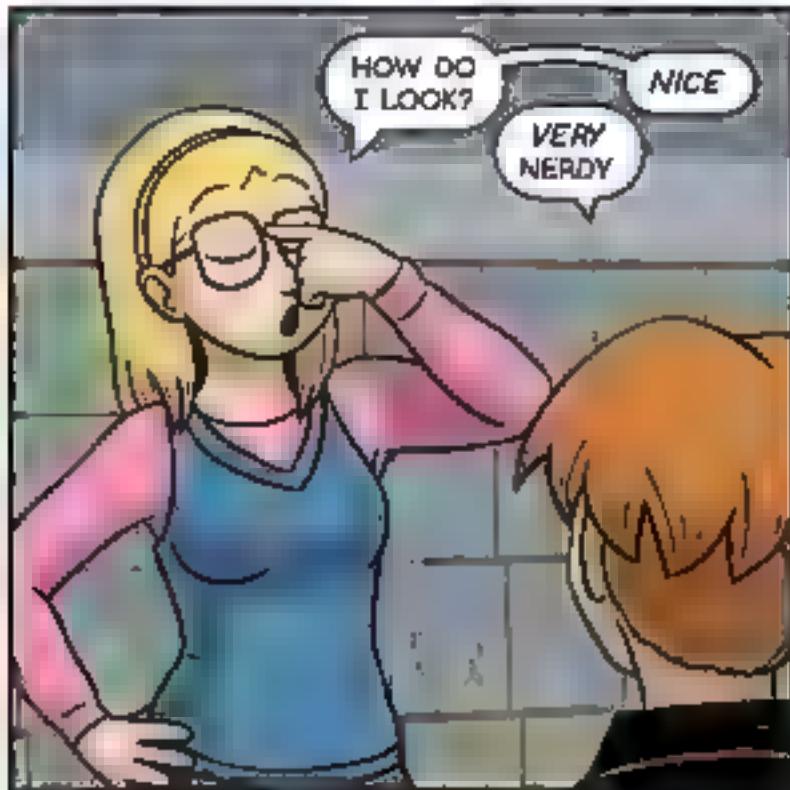


IS THAT  
REALLY THE SORT  
OF THING I NEED  
TO PROVE?

NO. BUT I KNOW HOW  
SOME OF THE GUYS HERE ARE  
NOW PLEASE ENJOY THIS  
COMPLIMENTARY PAIR OF NERD  
COSTUME GLASSES.



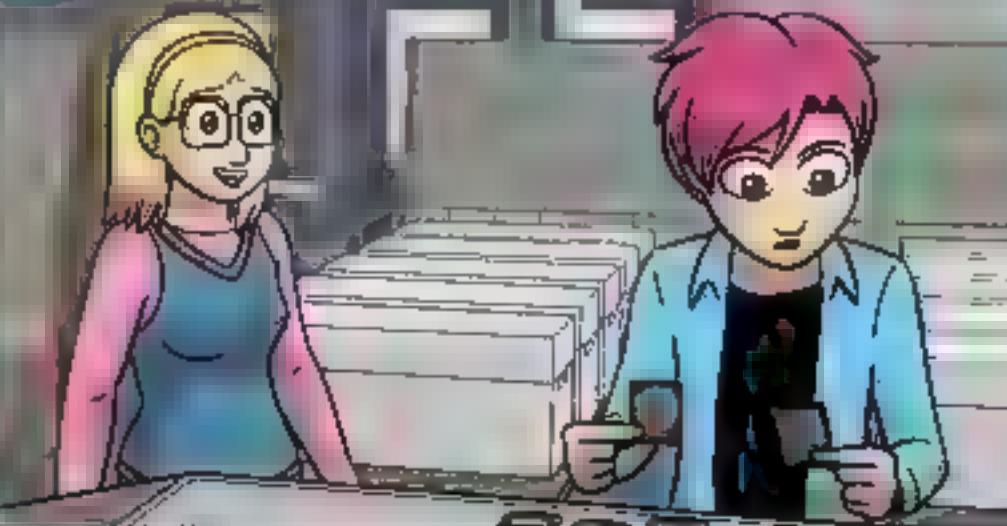
I've started a [Patreon Campaign!](#) See commentary below comic for details.



HEY TEDD!  
UH HOW'D YOUR  
ROUND GO?

I WON TWO OUT OF THREE  
GAMES AND MADE AN EARTH  
SHATTERING PERSONAL DISCOVERY  
THAT BLEW MY MIND.

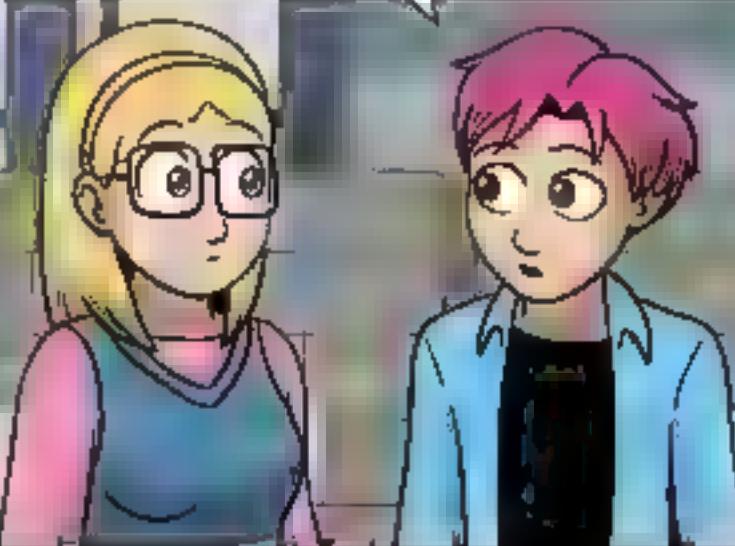
YOU  
DID WHAT  
NOW?



AND NOW I'M ON SOMETHING OF AN ADRENALINE HIGH FROM THAT DISCOVERY AND THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO WITH THAT ENERGY IN HERE AND IT'S COLD OUTSIDE SO I'M RAPIDLY SORTING THROUGH MY CARDS WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I HUGGED YOU?

WHAT?  
UH, SURE.  
I-

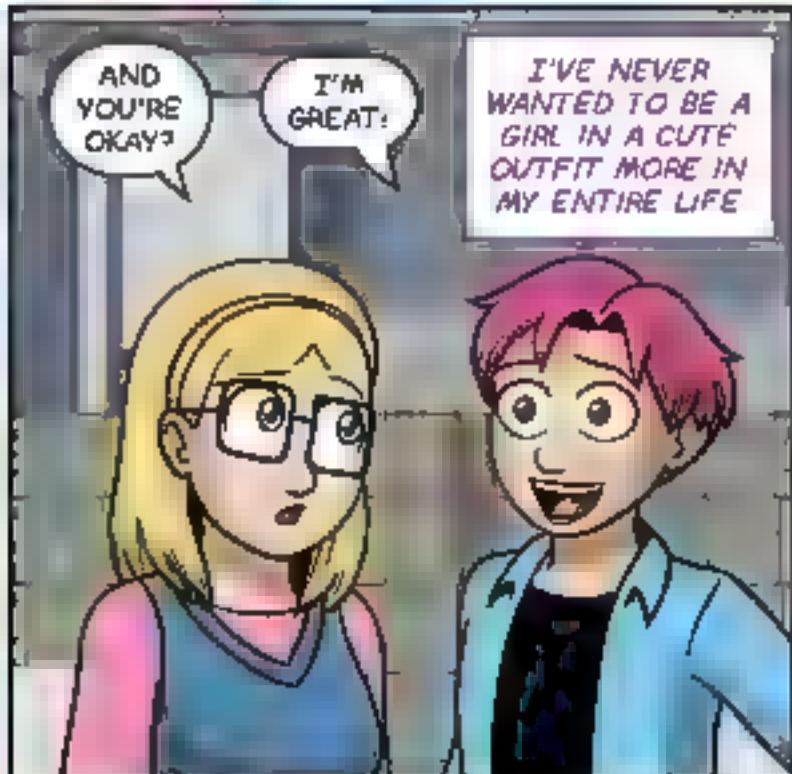
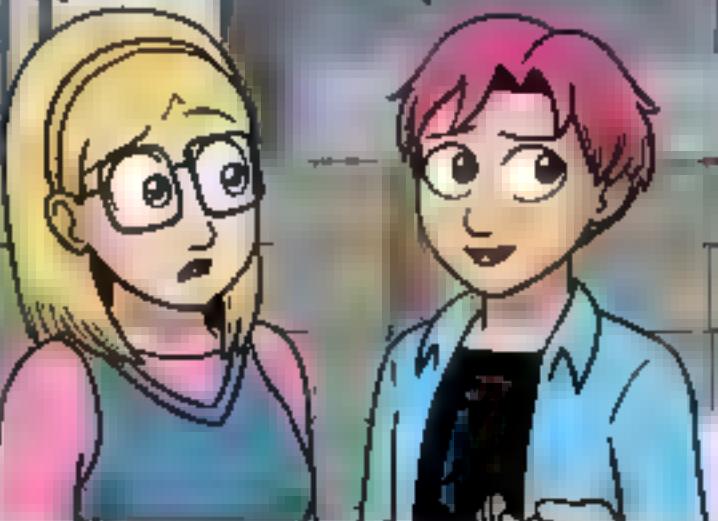
**Glomp**

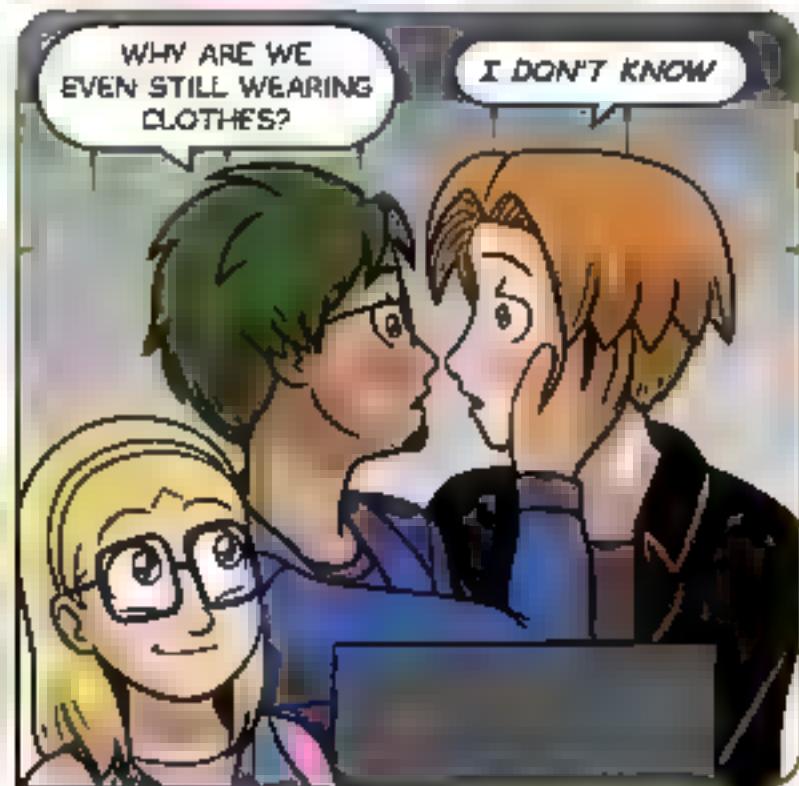
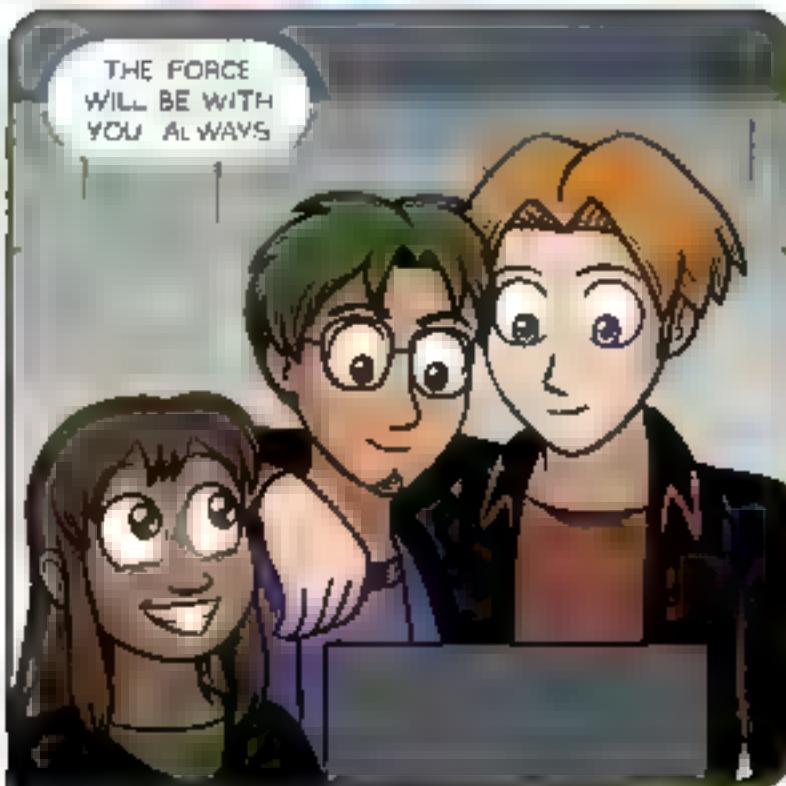


AND  
YOU'RE  
OKAY?

I'M  
GREAT!

I'VE NEVER  
WANTED TO BE A  
GIRL IN A CUTE  
OUTFIT MORE IN  
MY ENTIRE LIFE





IT'S SO  
DISAPPOINTING  
HOW THEY TREAT  
LEIA'S CHARACTER  
IN JEDI.

YEAH. THERE  
WAS A LOT OF  
POTENTIAL  
THERE

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THEY WERE  
THINKING WITH  
"SLAVE LEIA"

I THINK THEY  
WERE THINKING "THIS  
WILL MAKE CERTAIN  
PEOPLE VERY HAPPY"

CERHEM

OH HEY, GEORGE

MY ROUND  
RESULTS.

THANKS.  
I SEE YOU  
WON TWO  
OUT OF  
THREE  
AGAIN.

YES.  
AND YOU  
EVOLVED.

I WHAT? OH, RIGHT  
THE CYNDAAQIL YOU  
NAMED AFTER ME

IT'S A  
"QUILAVA"  
NOW

RIGHT  
RIGHT

WHAT WAS WITH  
THAT LOOK? DO I  
KNOW THAT GUY?

OR, I KNOW I  
CAN SEE THINGS  
OTHER PEOPLE  
CAN'T...

WHAT IF  
HE CAN DO  
THAT TOO?

I'D BETTER  
CHECK OUT  
THAT GUY'S  
AURA. JUST  
IN CASE...

1  
UNGH!!

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE! I JUST GOT AN EYELASH IN MY EYE!

AN EYELASH?

I HAVE VERY SENSITIVE EYEBALLS!

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

OKAY NOT BLIND THAT'S A PLUS.

AND THE OTHER AURAS WEREN'T BRIGHT THEY WERE JUST HIGHLIGHTY!

OH MY GOD WE'RE DEALING WITH MAGIC IT COULD TOTALLY BE SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? DID MY POWER JUST MALFUNCTION, OR... OR WHAT? IT DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING!

WAS THAT EVEN AN AURA? WAS IT FROM THAT GUY? OR THAT PINK-HAIRED GUY? OR SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE?

GRANTED, YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME THEN ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN NOW, AND YOU'D NEVER MET TEDD BUT I DIND TECHNICALLY SAY IT!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO GAZE UPON MY GRAND GODSON WITH THAT SPELL.

I WARNED YOU IT WOULD NOT WORK PROPERLY.

GRANTED, YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME THEN ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN NOW, AND YOU'D NEVER MET TEDD BUT I DIND TECHNICALLY SAY IT!

WAS IT JUST A ONE TIME GLITCH?  
DO I TRY AGAIN? IS THERE AN  
INVISIBLE MONSTER? IS THAT TALL  
HEAVY GUY A DEMON? WHAT--

HERE YA GO

THANKS. WELL,  
THAT'S IT FOR  
THIS ROUND

THE  
ROUND'S  
OVER?

YEP JUST GOTTA  
FINISH INPUTTING  
THE RESULTS AND  
GET PAIRINGS.

ARE YOUR  
EYES DOING  
BETTER?



ROUND THREE PAIRINGS ARE UP!

I GUESS IT'S GO TIME.

YOU STILL FEEL LIKE PLAYING, RIGHT?

OH SURE I'M A LITTLE MAJORLY DISTRACTED, BUT... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

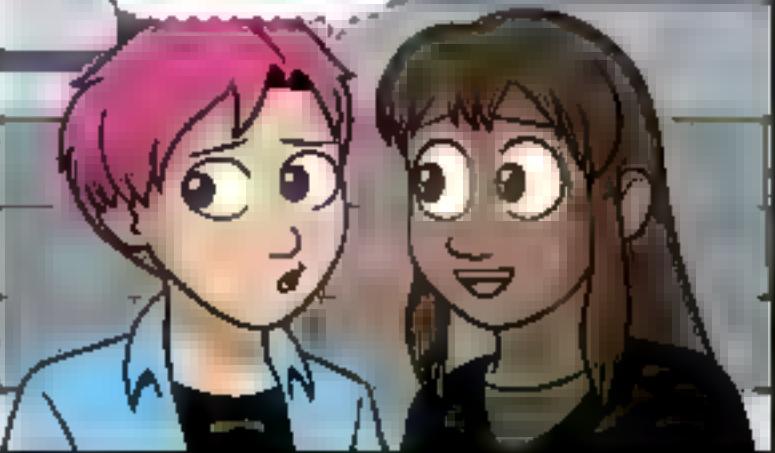
OF COURSE!



WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TRANS-GENDER STUFF? DID YOU LOOK IT UP BECAUSE OF ME?

OH NO I FIND WANTING TO CHANGE FORMS TOTALLY NORMAL IT NEVER WOULD'VE OCCURRED TO ME

WAS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

OH! UH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARE



IT'S JUST I THOUGHT ONLY BOYS COULD GROW BEARMPH?

OH YOU KNOW THE USUAL REASON I WIND UP LOOKING STUFF UP



I HOPE I GET TO PLAY AGAINST SAMANTHA. I'LL MAKE WAY BETTER OF AN IMPRESSION THAN YOU D.D.

GO AHEAD I'M HOPING I GET TO PLAY AGAINST THAT BLONDE GIRL

THE FAKE GEEK GIRL?

SHE'S NOT FAKE! SHE HAS GEEK CRED NOW PLUS SHE'S MORE CURVY

WHATEVER.



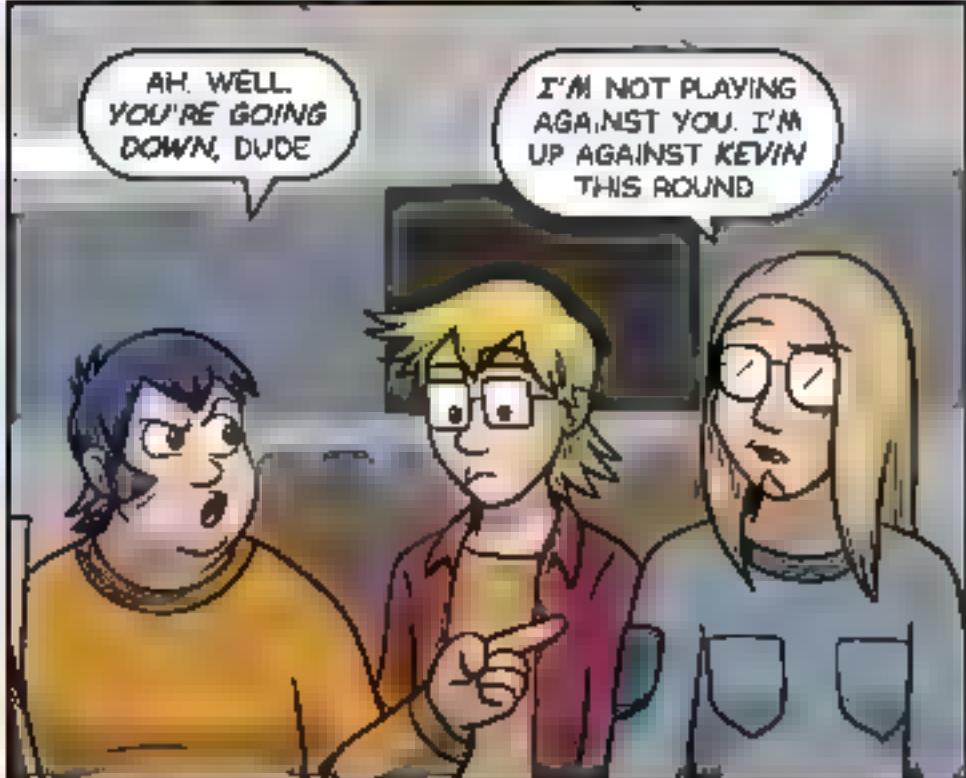
WELL LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING YOUR WISH.

SWEET!

AND I'M PLAYING AGAINST TEDD

AH, WELL. YOU'RE GOING DOWN, DUDE

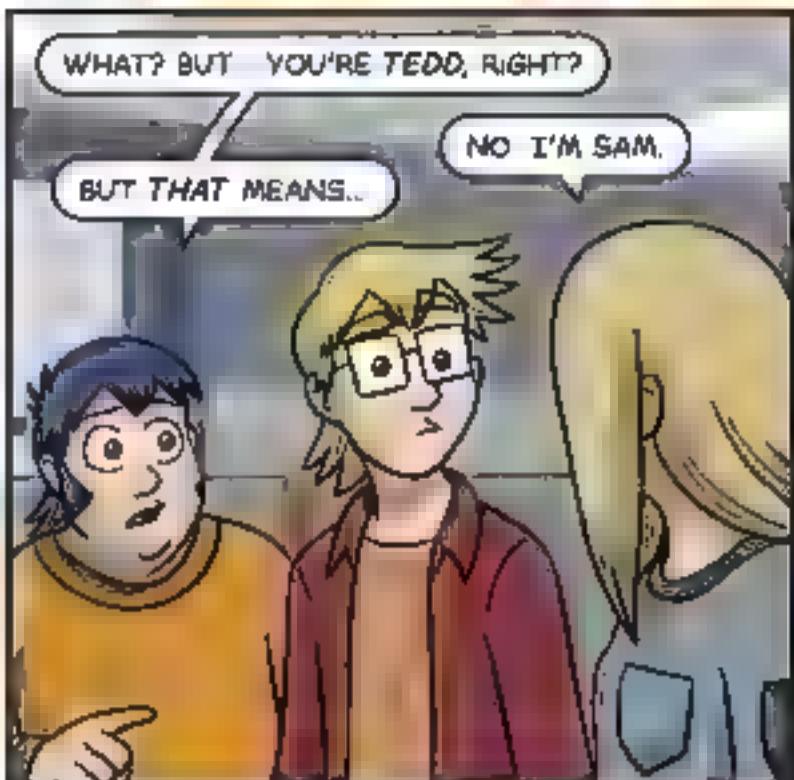
I'M NOT PLAYING AGAINST YOU. I'M UP AGAINST KEVIN THIS ROUND



WHAT? BUT YOU'RE TEDD, RIGHT?

NO I'M SAM.

BUT THAT MEANS...



January 2nd (the past! Oh snap!)

IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN, TEDD. YOU NEED TO ACCEPT THAT

# NEVER!

SEE, THIS IS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN.

DAD, IF PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT MAGIC AND HOW IT WORKS...

THE COLLEGE KIDS AT THAT PARTY STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN POWERLESS TO STOP A SNEAK ATTACK. AND THERE WOULD BE COUNTLESS OTHER THREATS TO WORRY ABOUT

BUT THE AMOUNT OF GOOD THAT--

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A MAGIC SYSTEM THAT REFLECTS THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT!

ELLIOT HAS A FREAKING SUPER HEROINE SPELL!

EXCEPTIONS DO NOT MAKE THE RULE. AND ELLIOT IS A RARE EXCEPTION!

SERIOUSLY, THAT KID'S RIDICULOUS. I THINK HE WAS BORN WEARING A SCOUT'S UNIFORM OR SOMETHING

THERE'S NO WAY!  
I MEAN SHE'S  
NOT SUPER BUSTY  
BUT MOST THIN  
GIRLS AREN'T!

MAYBE TEDD  
CAN BE A GIRL'S  
NAME

THAT'S AS  
LIKELY AS A  
BOY NAMED  
SUE!

WHAT IF... WHAT IF  
TEDD IS A DUDE? WHAT  
DOES THAT MAKE US?

IF TEDD'S A GUY THEN  
IT WAS A TRAP AND HE  
TRICKED US. IT DOESN'T  
MAKE US ANYTHING BUT  
VICTIMS OF DECEIT!

WAIT WAIT WAIT TEDD  
CAN BE A GIRL'S NAME!  
IT'S SHORT FOR STUFF

HOW  
COMMON  
CAN THAT  
POSSIBLY  
BE?

YEAH, WELL  
GOOD LUCK  
FIGURING IT OUT  
I'M GOING TO PLAY  
AGAINST SARAH

Soon (as opposed to instantaneously)

HELLO. I'M RICH.  
SHORT FOR RICHARD. IT'S  
DERIVED FROM "RIC" AND  
"HARD", AND MEANS  
"POWERFUL LEADER"

WHAT'S YOUR  
NAME (AND  
THE EXTENSIVE  
ETYMOLOGY  
THEREOF)?

UML.  
TEDD?

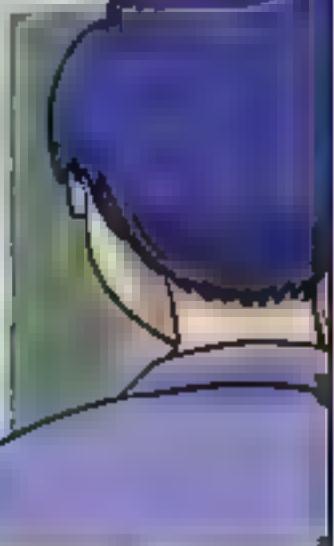
IF IT'S SHORT FOR  
SOMETHING. NOBODY'S  
TOLD ME

I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE THAT MAGIC WOULDN'T BE ABUSED. BUT THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING!

IF PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT IT WANDS WITH PROTECTIVE SPELLS COULD BE SOLD IN STORES!

"AUTHENTIC EXPLOSIVE HOMING FIREBALL WANDS: BUY NOW!"

YOU'RE BASICALLY SUGGESTING WE ALLOW EVERYONE ACCESS TO ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND MAKE IT OKAY BY GIVING EVERYONE BOMB SUITS.



WOULD A BOMB SUIT EVEN HELP AGAINST A ROCKET LAUNCHER?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

WHAT IF IT WAS JUST WANDS? IF ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE KNEW HOW TO MAKE THEM—

YOU KNOW THAT USING MAGIC IN THAT MANNER CAN HELP DEVELOP ONE'S OWN MAGIC. AND IF WANDS BECAME COMMONPLACE, SO TOO WOULD BLACK MARKET WANDS.



YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY TELL ME THERE ISN'T ALREADY A BLACK MARKET FOR MAGIC.

A SMALL ONE THAT'S RELATIVELY EASY TO MANAGE AND FUELED MORE BY FICTION THAN ACTUAL DANGEROUS MAGIC, YES.

I'M SORRY, TEDD, BUT THIS IS HOW IT HAS TO BE

THERE'S NO WAY TO GIVE MAGIC TO EVERYONE WITHOUT CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES.



UH-HUH...

WH.

WHAT?

UH. NOTHING. NOTHING. FOR SOME REASON I WAS REALLY SURE YOUR HAIR WAS A DIFFERENT COLOR.

OH CRAP! THE COLOR CHANGE WAS MAGIC! IF THE ENCHANTMENT WORE OFF--

ENCHANTED  
WANDERS

THE ENCHANTMENT DIDN'T WEAR OFF! IT'S BEEN OVERRIDDEN BY A NEW ENCHANTMENT!

I'M A GIRL!

WHOOPS.

HOW DID I NOT SEE THIS COMING? I SEE EVERYTHING COMING!

MORTALS WHO'VE BEEN MARKED WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE ALMOST ALWAYS ACCIDENTALLY USE THEIR SPELLS SHORTLY AFTER BEING MARKED!

THAT'S TRUE EVEN WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO EXCESS AMOUNTS OF MAGIC

OF COURSE, THIS WASN'T PART OF SOME MASTER PLAN. I IMPULSIVELY USED MY VAST POWER TO DO SOMETHING NICE WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH.

AND THEN SOMETHING I DIDN'T EXPECT HAPPENED.

EVEN THOUGH I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT

I SHOULD BE NICE MORE OFTEN!

HUH DEFINITELY A GIRL

EXCUSE ME?

NOTHING! NOTHING. I I SAID NOTHING

NOBODY'S FREAKING OUT - I MUST JUST LOOK LIKE AN ANDROGYNOUS GIRL INSTEAD OF AN ANDROGYNOUS BOY

OKAY WELL THIS IS CRAZY, AND I'LL ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND IF I CAN CHANGE BACK

THE HAIR'S OBVIOUS. BUT THEY'RE EITHER NOT NOTICING OR THEY'RE LIKE THIS GUY AND ASSUMING THEY'RE REMEMBERING IT WRONG.

FOR NOW? I GET TO BE A GIRL IN PUBLIC AND PLAY CARD GAMES!

SO... DO YOU  
PLAY CARD GAMES  
OFTEN?

ARE YOU  
HITTING ON  
ME?

UHHH.

NO-NO-NO.  
NO-NO. WE DO  
NOT KNOW  
EACH OTHER.

I COULD HAVE A  
BOYFRIEND. OR BE A  
CRAZY AX MURDERER  
FOR ALL YOU KNOW  
OR VICE VERSA!

THIS ISN'T A SINGLES  
BAR. THIS IS A COMIC  
SHOP, AND WE'RE  
ABOUT TO PLAY AT  
LEAST TWO CARD  
GAMES TOGETHER.

IT'S A PERFECT  
OPPORTUNITY TO GET  
TO KNOW EACH OTHER  
A LITTLE BETTER WHILE  
BEING RESPECTFUL OF  
EACH OTHER.

I I'M NOT. WAIT  
WHAT'S BEING VICE  
VERSA'D?

I I DIDN'T MEAN  
ANY DISRESPECT. I.  
SORRY YEAH. CARD  
GAMES RESPECT  
SOUNDS GOOD.

AND DON'T  
YOU DARE LET ME  
WIN. THAT'S NOT  
RESPECTFUL.

IT'S NOT?

YES'M.

SO IT LOOKED LIKE  
YOU WERE HAVING A GOOD  
TIME WITH LUKE!

JH, YEAH, HE  
SEEMS LIKE A  
COOL GUY

AND I THINK  
MAAAAYBE HE MIGHT  
HAVE AN INTEREST IN  
SOMEONE? HMMMP?  
MAYBE JUST A  
LITTLE INTEREST  
IN SOMEONE?



AND NOW YOU'RE  
GLARING AT ME AND  
I'M NOT SURE WHY  
I'M STILL TALKING  
LIKE THIS?

THAT'S  
NOT FUNNY,  
GRACE

IT WHAT?  
WHAT'S NOT  
FUNNY?



THE POOR GUY DOESN'T  
HAVE A CHANCE AND YOU  
KNOW IT YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO MAKE FUN OF HIM.

HE... WHAT?  
HE DOESN'T EVEN  
HAVE A CHANCE?

WHAT.



OF COURSE NOT!  
YOU AND TEDD ARE  
PRACTICALLY MARRIED!



ARE YOU  
SAYING YOU'RE  
NOT PRACTICALLY  
MARRIED?

WAIT, DID  
YOU TWO  
ELOPE?

YOU THINK HE'S ATTRACTED TO ME?

I THINK HE LIKES YOU

UH, YEAH? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE HIM NERVOUS. PLUS HE ASKED ABOUT YOUR OPINION ON STAR WARS. WHY DO YOU THINK HE LIKES SARAH?

ME? THAT... THAT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU CAN'T JUST ASSUME HE'S GAY

I'M NOT HE COULD BE BISEXUAL AND YOU'RE ASSUMING HE'S NOT

THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE RIGHT

WELL, YEAH SOMEWHERE AROUND NINETY PERCENT OF PEOPLE ARE HETEROSEXUAL.

LOOK, I SAW CHEMISTRY AND SO DID SARAH! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES AND MY RELATIONSHIP SENSES WERE JIGGLING.

"TINGLING"  
SPIDER-MAN'S  
SENSES  
"TINGLE"

WELL,  
GOOD FOR  
SPIDER-MAN.  
I JIGGLE

OF COURSE  
YOU DO

LOOK I'D  
LIKE IT IF HE WAS...  
INTERESTED, BUT I  
CAN'T JUST ASSUME  
HE'S GAY

BUT YOU  
CAN ASSUME  
HE'S NOT?



THAT STILL  
DOESN'T SOUND  
RIGHT BUT OKAY I  
GET YOU DON'T  
WANT TO JUMP TO  
CONCLUSIONS.

...BUT IF YOU  
STUBBORNLY  
ASSUME EVERY-  
ONE YOU MEET IS  
HETEROSEXUAL,  
HOW ARE YOU  
EVER GONNA MEET  
SOMEONE?

I... I DUNNO.  
IT'S NOT LIKE I  
CAN JUST LIGHT  
UP A "GAY SIGNAL"  
AND GET GAY GUYS  
TO REVEAL THEIR  
GAYNESS TO ME.

I MEAN, I  
SORTA TRIED  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT  
BUT...



YOU HAD  
A "GAY  
SIGNAL"?

AN EARRING. I READ THAT  
HAVING ONE ON YOUR RIGHT EAR  
WAS SUPPOSED TO, I DUNNO,  
ADVERTISE GAYNESS. I STILL  
WEAR IT SOMETIMES. BUT...

BUT IT  
DIDN'T  
WORK.

WELL, SOME PEOPLE TOLD  
ME IT WAS "TOTALLY GAY"  
BUT THAT'S NOT EXACTLY  
WHAT I WAS GOING FOR.



ANYWAY I  
ASSUME I'LL  
FIGURE OUT HOW  
TO MEET GUYS  
IN COLLEGE

OR AT LEAST  
SOME GUYS  
WHO WANT TO  
EXPERIMENT

THERE IS A GUY RIGHT  
HERE, RIGHT NOW, WHO  
(THEORETICALLY) WANTS  
YOUR MAN HUGS

I HEARD THAT  
THEORETICALLY™



OKAY LOOK, YOU GUYS WERE TALKING  
ABOUT STAR WARS, RIGHT?

NO BUT WHAT  
ELSE WOULD YOU  
TALK ABOUT?

WERE YOU  
EAVESDROPPING?

SO DID YOU TWO DISCUSS  
RETURN OF THE JEDI?

UM, YEAH.  
WE DID.

WHAT WAS HIS  
OPINION REGARDING  
SLAVE LEIA?



...DISAPPOINTING...

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THEY WERE  
THINKING..

OH MY  
GOD HE'S  
GAY



SO. YOU GONNA ASK HIM OUT?

ASK HIM OUT? I CAN'T JUST ASK HIM OUT WHAT IF HE'S NOT "OUT"? OR DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S GAY? OR HE'S DATING SOMEONE?

OR WHAT IF WE'RE WRONG? THERE COULD BE STRAIGHT GUYS WHO DON'T LIKE SLAVE LIFE!

WAIT A MINUTE AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN...

OKAY YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW

WELL, OF COURSE I AM. YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S A GUY HERE I LIKE WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY LIKE ME BACK!

I MEAN THERE COULD ALSO BE BIG FOOT, BUT...

OH MY GOD BIG FOOT IS REAL

SO ROMANCE TIME?

I CAN'T JUST ASK HIM OUT! I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

WHY NOT? THE WORST HE COULD DO IS SAY NO.

OR FREAK OUT AND QUIT THE TOURNAMENT AND NEVER COME BACK. NO NO NO I JUST MET HIM. I'M NOT SCARING HIM AWAY

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I DUNNO. I THINK I HAVE AN EARRING IN MY GLOVE COMPARTMENT

I'M GONNA LIGHT UP THE GAY SIGNAL

HEY  
GRACE

HELLOOOO.  
JUSTIN!  
WHAT'S UP?

I'M GOING TO  
PUT IN A NEW  
MOVIE I CAN ONLY  
WATCH SPACE BALLS  
SO MANY TIMES IN  
A MONTH.

NO STOP  
RICK MORANIS  
IS A NATIONAL  
TREASURE

WELL, HE IS.  
YOU'RE NOT  
GETTING TOO  
BORED BACK  
HERE ARE YOU?  
PEOPLE HAVEN'T  
BEEN BUYING  
MUCH TONIGHT

OH, I'M FINE. THERE'S  
PLENTY OF STUFF TO  
LOOK AT IN HERE AND  
IF I'M EVER REALLY  
BORED, I CAN ALWAYS  
PLAY AROUND WITH  
CHANGE BLINDNESS.

PLAY AROUND  
WITH WHAT?

BASICALLY, THE PHENOMENON IN  
WHICH NOT SEEING A CHANGE HAPPEN  
CAN KEEP A PERSON FROM EVEN NOTICING  
THAT ANYTHING HAS CHANGED.

YOU COULD MOVE  
STUFF AROUND IN  
A ROOM WHILE NO  
ONE'S LOOKING.  
AND EVEN PEOPLE  
WHO ARE REALLY  
FAMILIAR WITH  
THAT ROOM MIGHT  
NOT NOTICE UNTIL  
IT'S POINTED OUT  
IN SOME WAY

ASSUMING YOU  
DON'T CHANGE TOO  
MUCH ANYWAY

HUH, I GUESS  
THAT EXPLAINS  
WHY NEW  
HAIRCUTS  
OFTEN GO  
UNNOTICED.

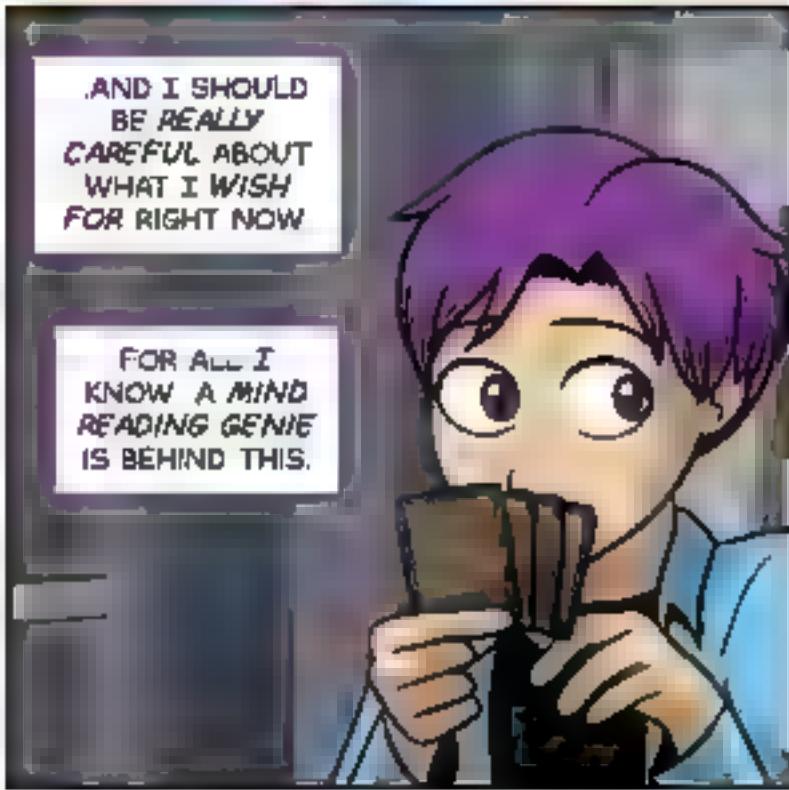
YOU'RE NOT SAYING YOU  
START REARRANGING THE  
INVENTORY ARE YOU?

NOPES! I LEAVE  
EVERYTHING WHERE  
IT SHOULD BE

THEN HOW DO YOU  
"PLAY AROUND" WITH  
CHANGE BLINDNESS?

I HAVE  
MY WAYS.

JUSTIN!



AND THAT'S FIVE  
DAMAGE SORRY

WOULD YOU  
PLEASE STOP  
APOLOGIZING?

I'M  
SORRY

REALLY?

WELL, IT  
FEELS LIKE  
I'M DOING  
SOMETHING  
WRONG!

WINNING AGAINST A  
GIRL IN A CARD GAME  
FEELS WRONG. BUT  
HITTING ON A GIRL  
YOU JUST MET IN A  
COMIC SHOP IS OKAY?

ALL I DID WAS ASK IF  
YOU PLAYED CARD  
GAMES OFTEN! YOU  
JUST ASSUMED I WAS  
HITTING ON YOU AND  
GOING TO LET YOU WIN!

WERE YOU?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY  
BUT THAT WAS STILL  
PRESUMPTUOUS!

I MEAN, UH...

NO NO, HONESTY'S  
GOOD. I LIKE HONESTY  
GO WITH THAT

YOU'RE CUTE AND I  
DON'T KNOW HOW TO  
TALK TO WOMEN?

THERE YA GO

YOU'RE DONE  
WITH YOUR TURN,  
RIGHT?

OH. UH. SOR--I  
MEAN YEAH YOUR  
TURN.

LOOK, IT'S NOT  
COMPLICATED. WE'RE  
BOTH PEOPLE

BTW  
YOU'RE A  
GIRL.

I MEAN, YEAH,  
YOU'RE A PERSON, BUT WE'RE  
DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW?

NOT THAT  
DIFFERENT  
DRAW A  
CARD...

LIKE, OKAY  
LET'S SAY YOU'RE  
DOING SOMETHING  
SOMEWHERE AND  
DON'T WANT TO  
GET HIT ON.

THAT'D BE  
AWESOME!

NO. SEE SHE'S  
HITTING ON YOU AT A  
TIME WHEN YOU DON'T  
WANT TO GET HIT ON.

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

COME ON THERE'S  
GOT TO BE TIMES WHEN  
YOU DON'T WANT RANDOM  
WOMEN HITTING ON YOU

YOU'RE  
JOKING,  
RIGHT?

OKAAAAY WHAT  
IF... SOME GUY  
HIT ON YOU?

HEY THAT'S  
NOT A FAIR  
COMPARISON.

THAT  
ONLY  
WORKS  
IF

OH! THAT  
EXPLAINS IT!

WHAT?  
WHAT EXPLAINS  
WHAT?

YOU'RE A LESBIAN!  
THAT'S WHY YOU  
DON'T WANT TO GET  
HIT ON BY GUYS!

NO I'M... I'M AT MOST A  
TWO ON THE KINSEY SCALE  
THERE ARE OTHER REASONS  
WHY A GIRL WOULDN'T—

:COUGH-  
LESBIAN  
:COUGH-

THAT'S IT! I'M  
DONE TRYING TO  
EDUCATE YOU.  
I'M OUT

YOU...  
FORFEIT?

FORFEIT?  
HELL NO.

I WILL BREAK YOU.

THIS FEELS SO WEIRD. I'M NOT USED TO WEARING AN EARRING IN PUBLIC ANYMORE

I FEEL LIKE I JUST WALKED INTO A ROOM WITHOUT ANY PANTS ON.

WHICH IS IRONIC, SEEING AS I'M TECHNICALLY WEARING MORE NOW

LUKE'S JUST A COUPLE TABLES OVER. BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S NOTICED.

WHY WOULD HE? HE'S BUSY PLAYING A CARD GAME.

THAT TAKES INTENSE FOCUS.

WELL, THAT'S FINE. I'M A CARD GAME JUDGE.

I SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET HIS ATTENTION RIGHT NOW

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?

...AND THEN THEY'LL GET MARRIED, AND BUILD A HOUSE, AND HAVE LOTS OF BABIES.



WAIT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

WHY WOULD THEY BUILD A HOUSE?

HELLO, GRACE

DEX! WHAT  
BRINGS YOU HERE  
ON A FRIDAY  
NIGHT?

GAME NIGHT WAS  
CANCELED THIS WEEK  
BECAUSE GREG'S ON  
A DATE WITH HIS  
GIRLFRIEND SO...



GREG HAS  
A NEW GIRL-  
FRIEND?!

YEP! MET  
HER ON NEW  
YEARS EVE



WE MIGHT HAVE  
TO MOVE GAME  
NIGHT AROUND BUT  
THAT'S FINE







I DREAMED ABOUT THEM... I DREAMED ABOUT AN IMMORTAL GIVING THEM MAGIC MARKS WITH SPELLS!

DEX'S SUMMONING,  
JUSTIN'S AURA-BOOSTED STRENGTH.  
RHODA'S SIZE MANIPULATION  
CATALINA'S CAT MORPHS...

WAS IT JUST A DREAM? IT SEEMS SO STRANGE BUT IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD TO DREAM ABOUT CATALINA BOBCAT DOING CAT-LIKE THINGS, OR RHODA BEING INVOLVED IN SIZE CHANGING ANTICS...

AND DEX... OH, RIGHT! DEX!

UM, SORRY! I JUST SORTA SPACED OUT THERE...

HMM? SORRY DID YOU SAY SOMETHING? I GOT DISTRACTED BY THIS MOVIE

UH, NEVERMIND.



JUSTIN JUSTIN CAN DEFINITELY DO THAT AURA STRENGTH DEALIE IF HE HAS A FLAME MARK ON HIS BACK, THEN THAT DREAM WASN'T JUST A DREAM.

HE'S NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING ONE, THOUGH. IF IT'S THERE HE'S GOTTA KNOW, RIGHT?

HOW COULD HE MISS A SMALL FLAME SHAPED MARK COLORED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF HIS SKIN ON A SPOT HIGH UP ON HIS BACK WHERE HE'D NEED A MIRROR AND PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO DAMMIT



OKAY, THIS GUY IS  
TOTALLY RUINING THE FUN  
OF BEING INEXPLICABLY  
TURNED INTO A GIRL BY  
SOME TERRIFYING  
UNKNOWN POWER.

I VERY NEARLY  
SUCCESSFULLY CHANGED  
A TIRE ONCE

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY  
SARAH'S THING AND  
IMAGINE THE GAME  
LIKE IT'S AN ACTUAL  
WIZARD DUEL...



I AM THE SUPER CUTE  
WIZARD OF TRANSFORMATION  
AND SCIENCE TEDD VERRES!



AND IN THE NAME  
OF UM, I DUNNO.  
TAKING A HINT

I WILL  
ZAP YOU!



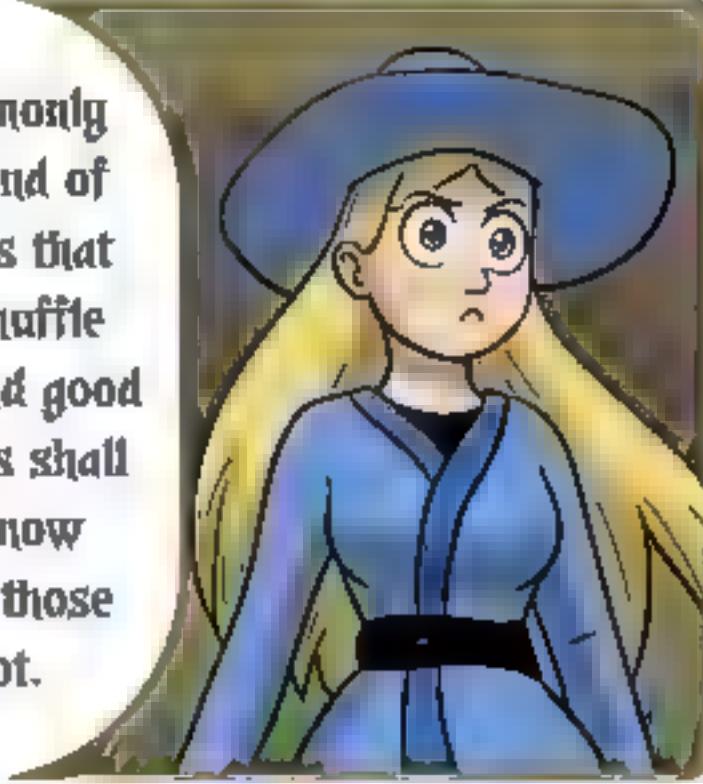
JM, YOU'RE BEING  
PRETTY QUIET. YOU  
KNOW IT'S YOUR  
TURN, RIGHT?

NOT THAT I'M  
BOthered by it.  
YOU CAN BE QUIET  
IF YOU WANNA BE

JUST YOU  
KNOW DELAY  
OF GAME

MUST  
IMAGINE  
FASTER





A belief commonly held in the land of card games is that those who shuffle with justice and good in their hearts shall inevitably know victory over those who do not.



This, however, is falsehood. Cards care not for the eares of humanity, and they shuffle as they may. The cards ultimately neutral, even the just can fall in card game combat.



But yeah, Tedd and Sarah totally kicked Rich and Larry's asses.

Tedd -- \*Erhem\* Tedd's match is over first, however



UH, HEY JUSTIN I'VE GOT  
MY ROUND RESULTS. MIND IF  
I LEAVE MY CARDS HERE?

SURE NO  
PROBLEM. HOW'D  
YOU DO?

OH PRETTY WELL.  
WON BOTH GAMES.

WOW YOU'VE GOT  
A REALLY GOOD WIN  
RECORD SO FAR.

YEAH. I GUESS I DO  
WELL. UH, I'M GONNA GO  
TALK TO GRACE

SOUNDS GOOD.  
TALK TO YA LATER.

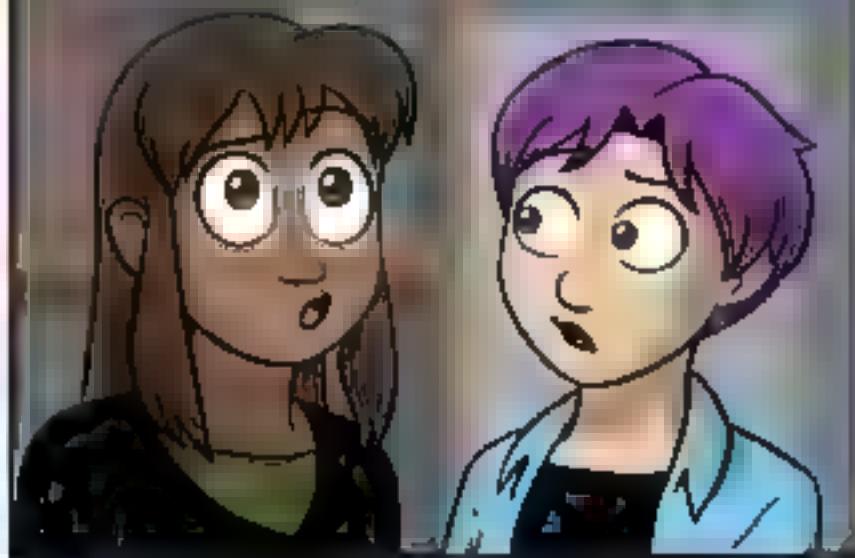
DID HE SERIOUSLY  
NOT NOTICE THAT I'M A  
PURPLE HAIR GIRL?

DID HE SERIOUSLY NOT  
NOTICE I'M WEARING A  
SUPER SWEET EARRING?

THAT CREEPY FLOATING GIRL FROM THE NEWS MAY OR MAY NOT BE A POWERFUL JL IMMORTAL WHO HAS BEEN MARKING A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE POSSIBLY INCLUDING JUSTIN, RHODA, CATALINA, AND NOW MAYBE YOU!

OR MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE HERE WAS, AND THEIR SPELL TARGETS OTHER PEOPLE?

I REITERATE SAY WHAT NOW?



I HAD A DREAM ABOUT IT! I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S TRUE BUT IF YOU WERE MARKED AND GIVEN A SELF-GIRLIFICATION SPELL, YOU COULD HAVE USED IT WITHOUT MEANING TO!

I DUNNO! THAT CAN WAIT MARK NOW DREAMS LATER.

WELL I CAN'T HAVE A MARK I'M MAGICALLY IMPAIRED. REMEMBER? I'LL NEVER HAVE SPELLS OF MY OWN



I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHAT TO COMMENT ON FIRST YOU'RE HAVING PROPHETIC DREAMS, NOW?



BUT YOU DO HAVE SOME MAGIC ENERGY AND IT WOULDN'T BE A SPELL "OF YOUR OWN" IT'S FROM A MARK, AND THERE'S ALL THAT AMBIENT MAGIC AROUND MOPERVILLE! YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE AS MUCH MAGIC ENERGY AS NORMAL!

RIGHT SO NOW WE NEED TO CHECK YOU FOR MAGIC MARKS!

UH...



I GUESS THAT COULD BE TRUE





WE NEED TO IF  
YOU DIDN'T TRANSFORM  
YOURSELF THEN SOMEONE  
OR SOMETHING ELSE DID!  
OTHER PEOPLE COULD GET  
TRANSFORMED!

YOU'RE  
RIGHT BUT  
WE CAN'T  
JUST, I  
MEAN.  
HERE?

NOT RIGHT HERE  
THE BACK ROOM

WE CAN PROP A  
CHAIR UNDER THE  
DOOR HANDLE?

OH, RIGHT IT'S  
STILL FEELS PUBLIC,  
BUT... THAT DOOR  
LOCKS, RIGHT?

OKAY  
SO... EEP!

I'M SORRY SHOULD  
I HAVE LET YOU DO  
THAT YOURSELF?

NO NO I WAS  
GONNA SUGGEST WE  
START JUST BY LIFTING  
THE SHIRT SOME AND  
LOOKING. BUT THAT  
WORKS TOO

I'M NOT SEEING  
ANY MARK ON YOUR  
UPPER TORSO

MAYBE I  
WASN'T-- WHOA THAT'S  
THOROUGH

I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE OKAY WITH

YES. YES  
IT'S FINE. MARK  
COULD BE ANY  
WHERE FINE AND  
GOOD GOOD AND  
FINE

I'M STILL... NOT... HM. I'M STILL NOT  
SEEING A MARK... COULD IT BE ON  
YOUR FEET? YOU SHOULD GET THE  
REST OF YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON.

DO I HAVE TO?

DO WHAT?

THIS IS  
ACTUALLY PRETTY  
EXHILARATING

AND IF ONE OF  
THOSE GUYS OUT  
THERE TRIES TO  
GET IN HERE TO  
USE THE  
RESTROOM?

GETTING  
DRESSED

I REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S LIKELY I HAVE A MARK. YOUR HYPOTHESIS IS GOOD AND ALL, BUT...

OKAY THAT'S MY HEAD. I NEED MY HEAD.

IT COULD BE ANYWHERE THERE'S SKIN, RIGHT?

THAT SOUNDS REALLY DISTURBING FOR SOME REASON.

WELL, THERE'S SKIN ON YOUR HEAD.

WHICH I'M VERY THANKFUL FOR. YOU DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S

FOUND IT

WHAT I CAN'T REALLY TELL WHAT ITS SHAPE IS, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY A MARK UNDER YOUR HAIR.

ARE YOU SURE?

EITHER THAT OR YOU'VE ACQUIRED A WEIRD TAN UNDER YOUR HAIR IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER.

SO I REALLY HAVE A MAGIC MARK? I... I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE POWER TO TURN MYSELF INTO A GIRL?!

WOW THAT'S REDUNDANT

YOU HAVE, WHAT, THREE WAYS OF DOING THAT NOW?

KRAK-A-THOOM  
FOUR IF YOU COUNT ASKING ELLEN, AND I'M WORKING ON MORE STILL PRETTY COOL, THOUGH.

COOL IT MAY BE, BUT THIS  
KINDA SORTA MAYBE CONFIRMS  
THAT MY DREAMS ABOUT THAT  
IMMORTAL WERE REAL!

"KINDA  
SORTA  
MAYBE?"

WELL, YOU WEREN'T IN THOSE  
DREAMS BUT IT'D BE A PRETTY  
HUGE COINCIDENCE FOR THEM NOT  
TO BE REAL BASED ON THIS.

YEAH, IT  
WOULD BE WE  
HAVEN'T REALLY  
CONFIRMED IT  
YET THOUGH.

IT'S NOT  
A BIRTHMARK  
I'VE SEEN YOU  
HAIRLESS.

IT'S UNSCIENTIFIC TO ASSUME  
THE MARK HAS TO BE ONE OF  
THE POSSIBILITIES WE CAN THINK  
OF WITHOUT TESTING IT FIRST IF  
I CAN CAST THE SPELL AGAIN.  
THEN IT'S CONFIRMED!

OOH,  
BAM-BUSTIME!  
GO FOR IT!

TEDD?

HOW DO  
PEOPLE CAST  
SPELLS?



I... THINK YOU JUST HAVE TO CONCENTRATE? FOCUS YOUR CHI OR... SOMETHING? MAYBE SCRUNCH UP YOUR FACE?

JUST FOCUS ON CASTING THE SAME SPELL AGAIN AND TRY TO WILL IT TO HAPPEN??

RIGHT MAGIC. SCRUNCHY FACE

GIRLY MORPH,  
GIRLY MORPH,  
GIRLY MORPH...



DID IT--IS MY VOICE HIGHER?

WELL UH AT LEAST THIS CONFIRMS THE MARK...



I DID IT! I ACTUALLY CAST A SPELL!

YES BUT YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.

EEEEEEE THIS IS SO COOL!



I'M TEMPTED  
TO CHECK MYSELF  
OUT IN THE MIRROR,  
BUT PUBLIC REST-  
ROOM. EH..

TEDD. YOU  
REALY NEED TO  
CHANGE BACK TO  
NORMAL BEFORE  
SOMEONE SEES.

I DUNNO. NOBODY  
NOTICED BEFORE  
MAYBE I CAN STAY  
LIKE THIS FOR A  
WHILE MY VOICE IS  
SUPER CUTE!

CHANGE  
BLINDNESS HAS  
LIMITS. ALSO,  
THAT CUTE VOICE  
IS AUDITORY



CHANGE  
WHATNESS? OH,  
RIGHT! THAT'S  
A THING!

I'M NOT ACTUALLY  
SURE THIS SPELL HAS  
A "REVERSE" MODE. IT  
MIGHT JUST MAKE ME  
MORE... THIS.

I'M NOT  
SURE HOW MUCH  
CUTER MY VOICE  
CAN GET

PLEASE  
TRY?

WOW THAT  
EXPLAINS A  
LOT.

OKAY I'LL DO  
MY BEST TO--

UNDO...?

I DIDN'T...  
ALL I DID WAS  
RESOLVE TO  
UNDO IT  
AND...

YOU'RE  
STILL A  
GIRL.



THIS... THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. I'VE WANTED AN ENCHANTMENT TO GO AWAY, AND POOF! GONE. JUST LIKE THAT.

IT HAS? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

I COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT! I STILL CAN'T EXPLAIN IT! I'M JUST... I'M GOOD AT DISENCHANTING MYSELF!

THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL A GIRL?



I THINK... I THINK THE HAIR COLOR ENCHANTMENT WASN'T REPLACED, IT WAS JUST... REMOVED.

CLEARED OUT OF THE WAY SO IT WOULDN'T INTERFERE OR THAT'S JUST HOW IT WORKS, OR... SOMETHING!

HOW IS THAT NOT ONE ENCHANTMENT REPLACING ANOTHER?



BECAUSE THE SPELL DIDN'T USE AN ENCHANTMENT! IT JUST CHANGED ME! IT DIDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING THAT WEARS OFF OR... OR CAN SIMPLY BE UNDONE!

WAIT, SO YOU THINK THAT

THIS ISN'T AN ENCHANTMENT

THIS IS PERMANENT



BUT THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?  
IF YOUR SPELL CHANGED  
WHAT YOU NORMALLY ARE,  
UH... YOUR DEFAULT FORM,  
IT CAN ALSO CHANGE IT  
BACK, RIGHT?

IT SEEMS TO BE A VERY BASIC SEX CHANGE  
SPELL, SORTA LIKE FEMALE VARIANT NUMBER  
ONE ON THE TF GUN. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
GET BACK TO NORMAL... ASSUMING IT WAS  
EVEN MY SPELL THAT DID THIS.

MAYBE WE  
SHOULDN'T  
MESS WITH IT  
FOR NOW FOR  
ALL WE KNOW  
THAT PIGTAILED  
FORM COULD'VE  
BECOME YOUR  
DEFAULT IF  
YOU'D DONE  
ANYTHING  
DIFFERENTLY!

TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT  
HOW FEW OBJECTIONS  
YOU'D HAVE TO THAT

WORST CASE SCENARIO I GET TO BE  
SMUG ABOUT INSISTING ON KEEPING  
CLONE FORM BACKUPS OF OURSELVES.

TEDD...

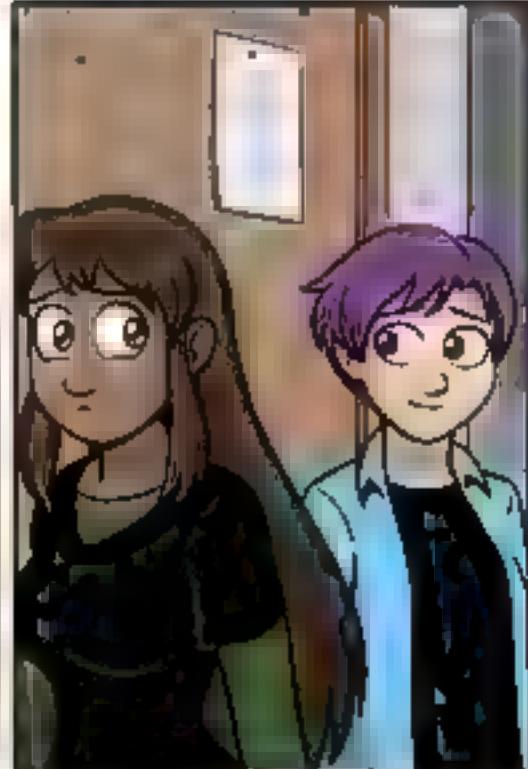
I NEED TO TRY AGAIN FOR  
THE SAME REASON WE PUSHED  
THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE. IF I  
DON'T DO THIS SOMEONE  
ELSE DID. WE NEED TO KNOW

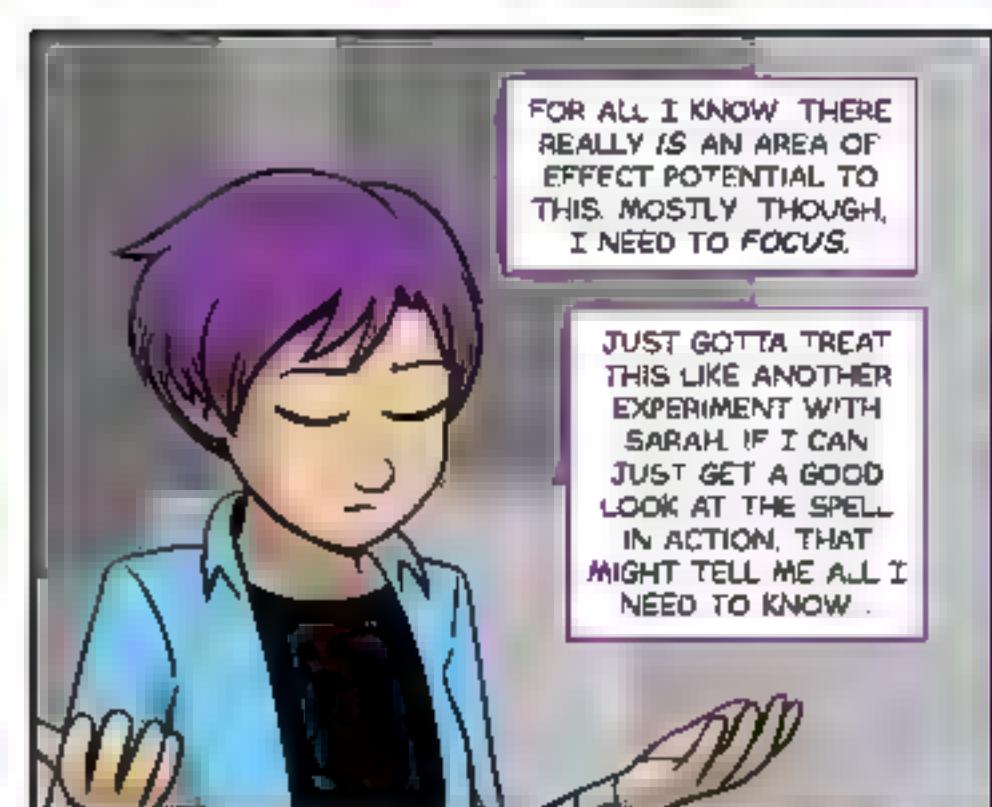
YOU SHOULD GO BACK OUT. I'M  
SORTA SHOCKED JUSTIN HASN'T  
COME LOOKING FOR YOU YET

THAT'S NOT  
IMPORTANT I'M  
HERE FOR YOU

THANK YOU BUT I'M NOOT A  
HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN  
THERE ISN'T POTENTIAL FOR AN  
AREA OF EFFECT TO THIS. I'M  
NINETY-NINE PERCENT CERTAIN.  
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RISK  
CHANGING YOU TOO.

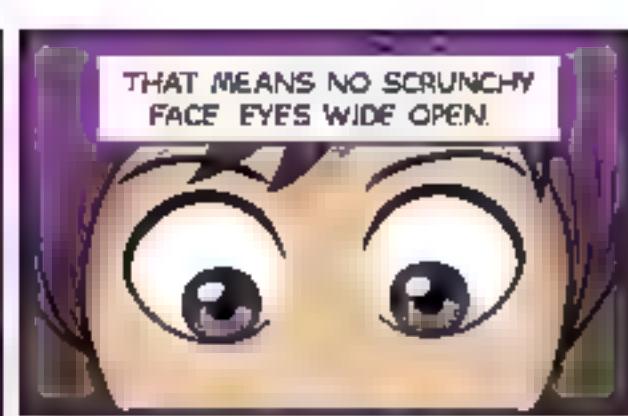
GO BACK OUT  
I'LL BE FINE.





FOR ALL I KNOW THERE  
REALLY IS AN AREA OF  
EFFECT POTENTIAL TO  
THIS. MOSTLY THOUGH,  
I NEED TO FOCUS.

JUST GOTTA TREAT  
THIS LIKE ANOTHER  
EXPERIMENT WITH  
SARAH. IF I CAN  
JUST GET A GOOD  
LOOK AT THE SPELL  
IN ACTION, THAT  
MIGHT TELL ME ALL I  
NEED TO KNOW.



THAT MEANS NO SCRUNCHY  
FACE EYES WIDE OPEN.



FOCUSED JUST RIGHT..



AND WILL MYSELF  
BACK TO DUDENESS!



TEDDIT IT--

PAT PAT

IT WORKED!

YEE YEAH IT WORKED.

IT TURNS OUT  
THE SPELL HAS  
CONTEXTUAL  
VERSATILITY

IF MY DEFAULT FORM  
MATCHES THE GENDER I  
CURRENTLY WANT TO BE IT  
ENCHANTS ME RELATIVE  
TO THAT FORM

OH AND I CAN TOTALLY ENCHANT OTHER  
PEOPLE IF I'M TOUCHING THEM, BUT I CAN'T  
CHANGE THEIR DEFAULT FORMS. JUST A BASIC  
SEX CHANGE ENCHANTMENT WITH A SORT  
OF EXTRA GIRLY OR MANLY FLARE TO IT

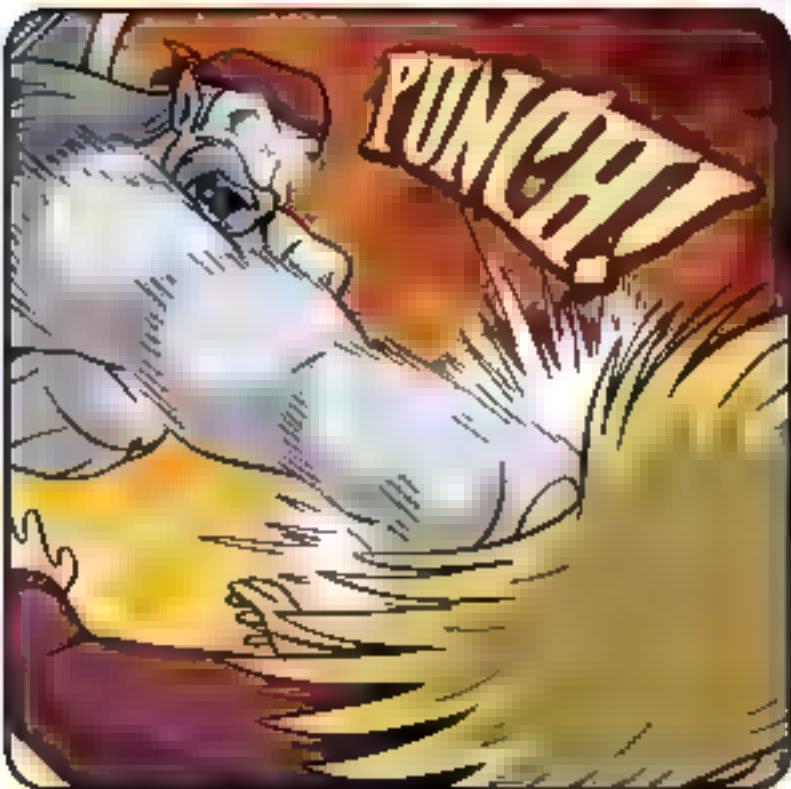
IF NOT IT  
CHANGES MY  
DEFAULT FORM  
THE MORE I  
GENUINELY WANT  
TO BE EITHER  
SEX. THE LESS  
CONCENTRATION  
IT TAKES TO  
CAST THE SPELL  
AND CHANGE  
MY DEFAULT  
FORM.

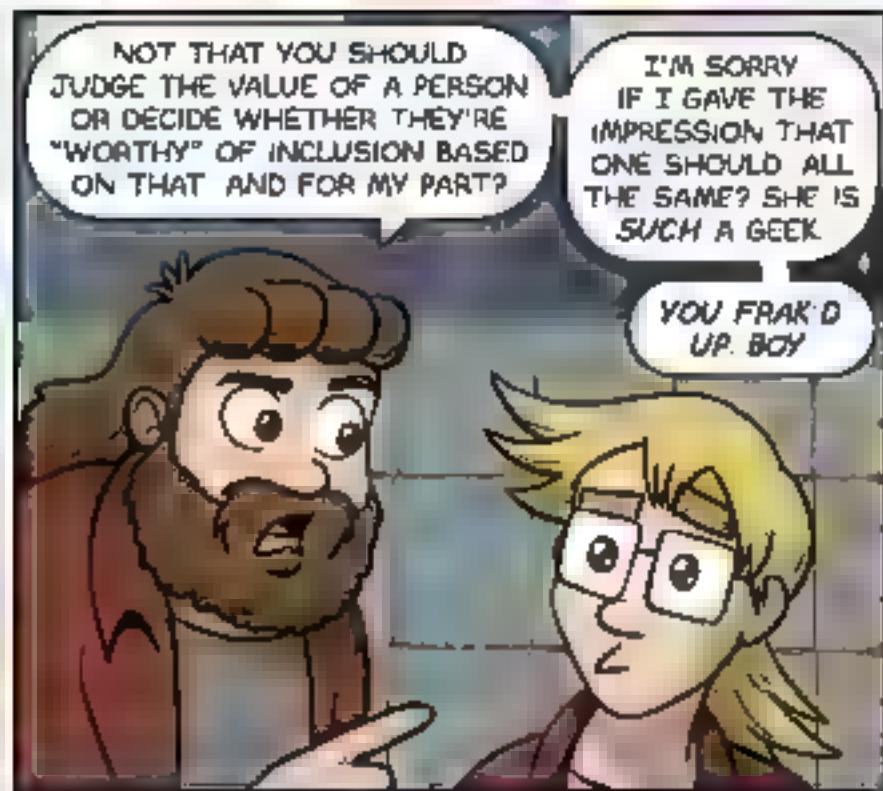
THAT SAID  
I THINK I'VE  
GOT A PRETTY  
FIRM GRASP ON  
HOW TO MAKE  
TRANSFORMATION  
WANDS THAT  
PERMANENTLY  
CHANGE DEFAULT  
FORMS NOW SO  
THAT'S KINDA  
NIGHTMARISH.

HOW COULD  
YOU POSSIBLY  
KNOW ALL--

YOU KNOW HOW WE THOUGHT  
I JUST SORTA HAD THIS INTUITION  
ABOUT MAGIC AND STUFF BECAUSE  
OF ALL THE TESTING I'VE DONE?

IT'S MORE  
COMPLICATED  
THAN THAT





UGH. THAT MATCH COULD NOT END FAST ENOUGH. HOW'D YOU DO TEDD?

AN IMMORTAL MARKED THE BACK OF MY HEAD. I INADVERTENTLY TURNED MYSELF INTO A GIRL (WHICH IS WHY MY HAIR IS BACK TO PURPLE), AND I APPARENTLY HAVE SOME SORT OF ABILITY THAT GIVES ME INSIGHT INTO SPELLS AND ENCHANTMENTS.

YOU  
I MEAN  
THERE'S AN  
IMMORTAL?

WE HAVEN'T SEEN  
HER BUT THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN ANYTHING WITH  
IMMORTALS.

BUT YOU  
KNOW THEY'RE  
A "HER"?

WE THINK SO  
BASED ON ALL THE  
PROPHETIC DREAMS  
I'VE HAD

AND... WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN?  
YOU HAVE MAGIC NOW?

AND SOME SORT OF  
MAGIC INTUITION?

A GENDER  
BASED SPELL  
YEAH

I UH. I'M  
PRETTY SURE  
I'VE HAD THAT  
FOR A WHILE,  
ACTUALLY I  
JUST NEVER...

OKAY YOU  
KNOW HOW IF YOU  
FOCUS YOUR EYES  
JUST RIGHT YOU  
CAN SORT OF "SEE"  
MAGIC?

NO

WELL--WAIT  
WHAT? NO?

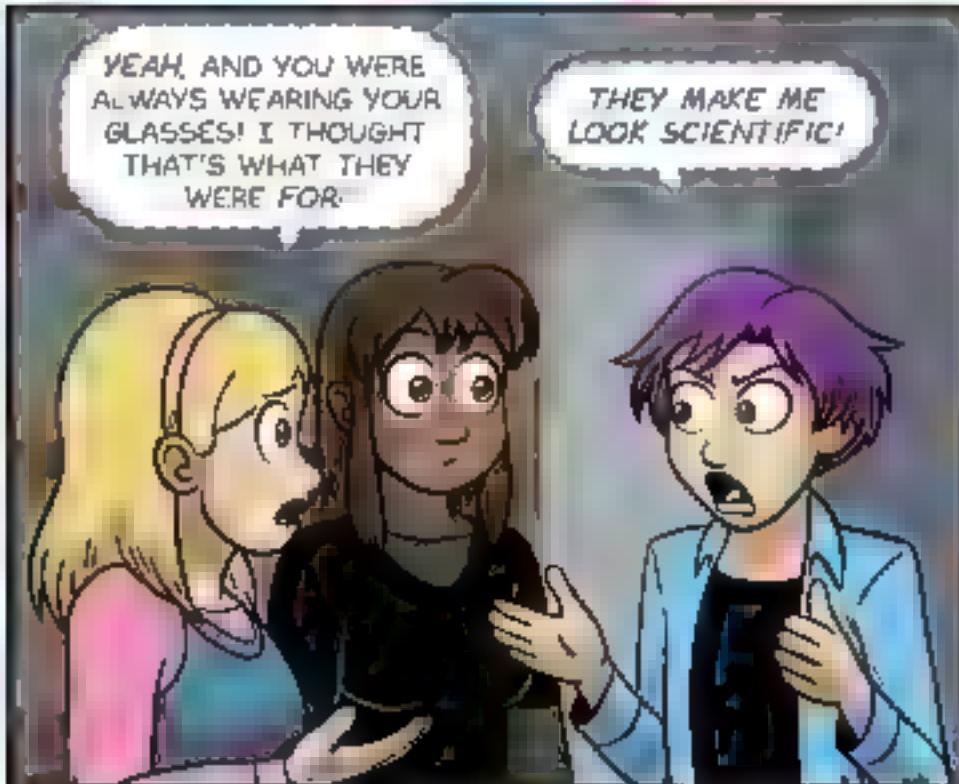
I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT

I'VE  
SEEN THE  
RESULTS  
OF USING  
MAGIC?

BUT... I DO IT ALL THE  
TIME! IT'S WHY I NEEDED  
TO WATCH YOU TRANSFORM  
ALL THOSE TIMES!

YEAH, AND YOU WERE  
ALWAYS WEARING YOUR  
GLASSES! I THOUGHT  
THAT'S WHAT THEY  
WERE FOR.

THEY MAKE ME  
LOOK SCIENTIFIC!



SO YOU  
CAN "SEE"  
MAGIC?

I DIDN'T  
KNOW THAT  
WAS WEIRD!

AND THAT  
TELLS YOU  
STUFF?

WELL I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
HOW TO EXPLAIN IT .IT'S LIKE  
SORT OF LIKE AN AURA?

AND THERE'S  
A CONSISTENCY  
TO HOW SPELLS  
AND ENCHANT  
MENTS WORK  
AND HOW THEY  
LOOK WITH  
SUBTLE AND  
MAJOR  
VARIATIONS?

SO I FIGURED  
OUT A LOT OF  
WHAT MEANT  
WHAT MANUALLY  
OR AT LEAST I  
THOUGHT I DID

I MADE  
INTUITIVE LEAPS  
THAT KEPT  
TURNING OUT  
RIGHT AND NOW  
I KNOW WHY I  
GUESS!

HOW DO  
YOU KNOW  
NOW?

BECAUSE I FOCUSED AS HARD  
AS I COULD WHILE LOOKING  
AT MYSELF FOCUSING AS  
HARD AS I COULD! I USED MY  
INSIGHT ON MY INSIGHT

BUT... I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE MAGICALLY  
IMPAIRED. HOW IS THIS  
MAGICALLY IMPAIRED?

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THIS IS!

-GASP- MAYBE  
YOU'RE A WIZARD!

I'M NOT A  
WIZARD.

HOW DO YOU

A SPACE WHALE  
TOLD ME

WHAT EVEN  
S A WIZARD,  
EXACTLY? A  
REAL WIZARD?

WHICH SEEMS  
LIKE IT SHOULD  
BE AN ODD THING  
TO ASK. BUT  
WHATEVER

A WIZARD IS A  
SPELLCASTER WHO  
MAY OR MAY NOT  
HAVE SPELLS OF  
THEIR OWN BUT  
CAN LEARN OTHER  
PEOPLE'S SPELLS.

IT'S A  
DISTINCTION  
ONE'S BORN  
WITH

SO ASIDE FROM "WORD OF  
SPACE WHALE" HOW CAN YOU  
BE CERTAIN YOU'RE NOT ONE?

YOU HAVE  
A SPELL  
NOW AND  
YOU CAN  
SEE HOW  
OTHER  
PEOPLE'S  
SPELLS  
WORK

I DON'T "HAVE"  
A SPELL I MEAN I  
DO, BUT IT'S FROM  
A MAGIC MARK.  
IT'S BASICALLY  
CHEATING.

AND THAT SCARY WAND DEALIE  
WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL, AND  
I'VE BEEN AROUND TONS OF THE  
SAME SPELLS USED AGAIN AND  
AGAIN I WOULD'VE LEARNED SOME  
WITHOUT EVEN TRYING BY NOW

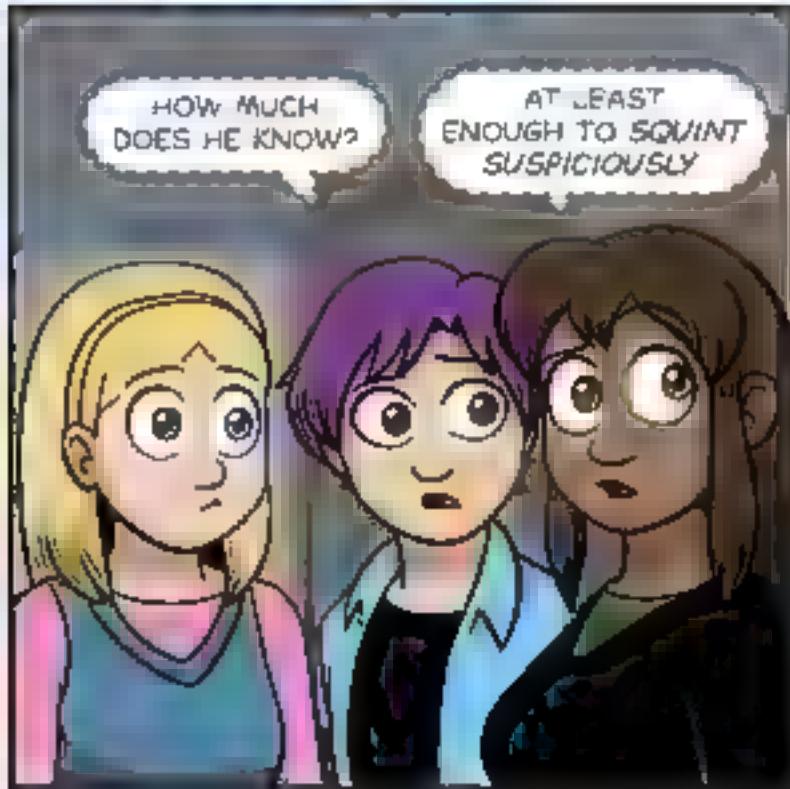
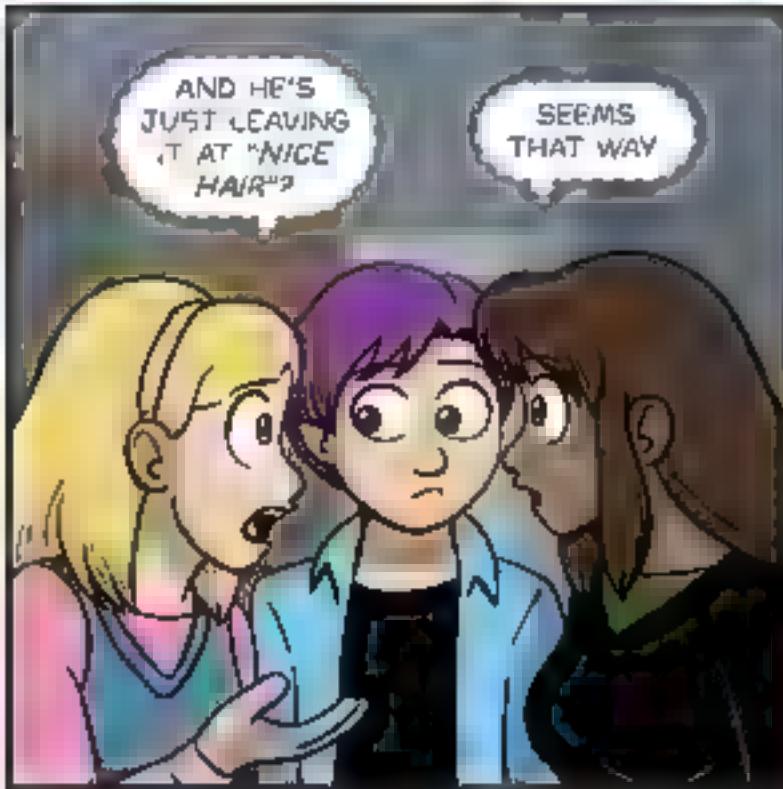
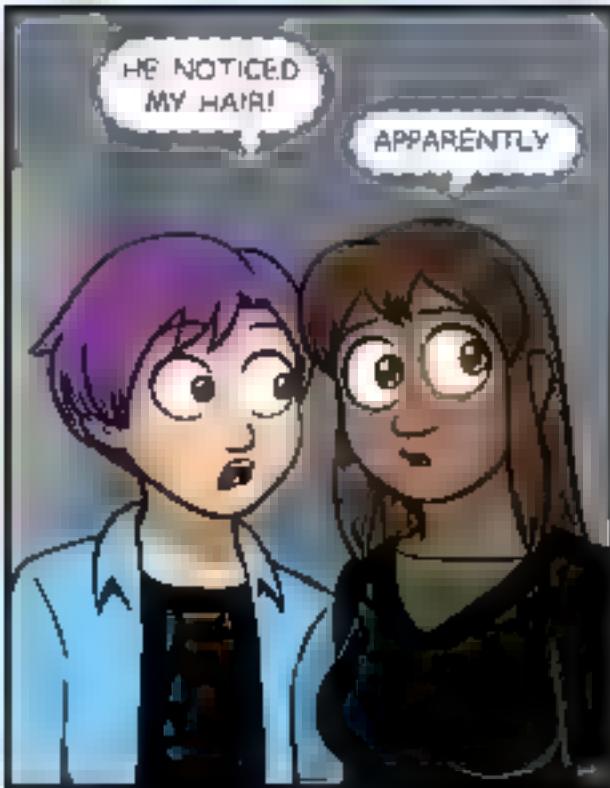
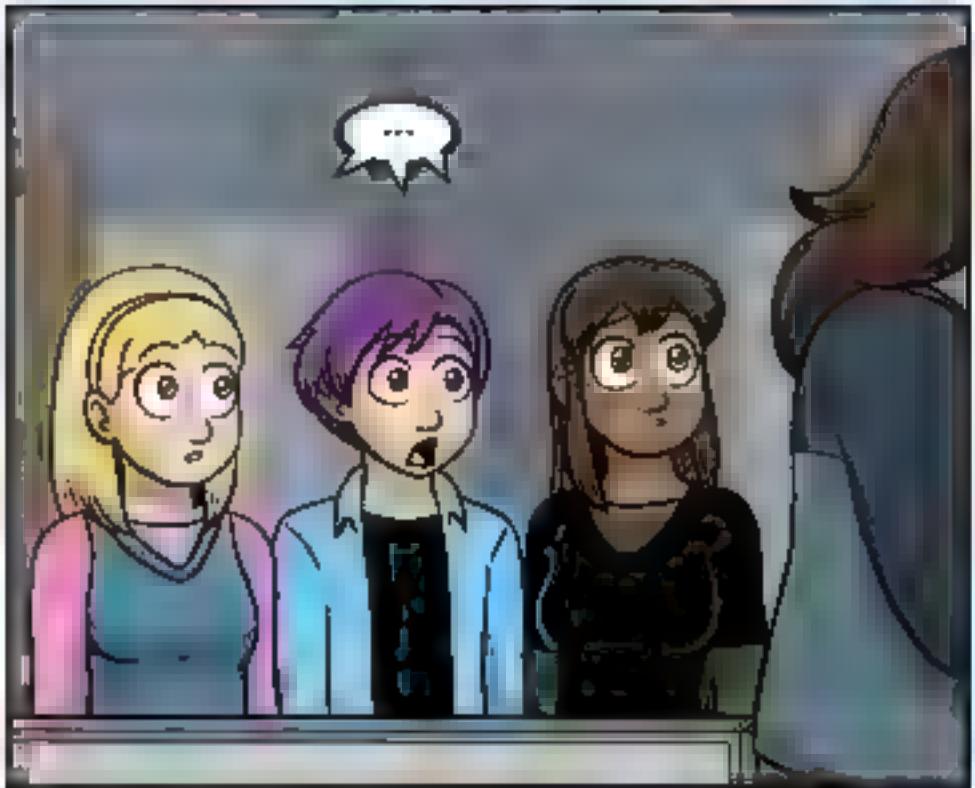
WIZARDS JUST HAVE TO SEE A SPELL  
ENOUGH TIMES TO LEARN IT? THEY DON'T  
NEED TO MAKE ANY EXTRA EFFORT?

LAZY WIZARDS.

YEAH

WELL IT MAY  
NOT BE THAT  
SIMPLE BUT I'M  
NOT A WIZARD!

REALLY? BECAUSE  
YOU SORT OF LOOK  
LIKE AN ASIAN  
HARRY POTTER.



MAN, THAT CHICK WAS TOTALLY IN TO ME. SHE COULDN'T STOP SMILING AND BLUSHING! HOW'D YOU DO WITH THE FAKE GEEK?

I THINK OUR PICKUP METHODS MIGHT BE GARBAGE

YOU BITE YOUR TONGUE! AND DID I NOT JUST SAY HOW SMOOTH MY MOVES WERE?

I'M SERIOUS. THAT SARAH GIRL WAS... SHE WAS LIKE A GUY BUT WITH BOOBS.



WELL NO WONDER YOUR PICKUP STRATEGY FAILED. SHE'S A LESBIAN.

I DON'T THINK SHE IS, DUDE. I'M SORTA THINKING WOMEN AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM US.

NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM YOU. MAYBE COME ON. THEY'RE LOADED UP WITH GIRLY HORMONES. THEY'RE GIRLY THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM GIRLS!

YEAH. BUT THEY'RE STILL PEOPLE YOU KNOW? THEY'RE MORE COMPLICATED THAN OUR GUIDES SAY



OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE SAYING THEIR CHALLENGE RATING IS HIGHER THAN THE GUIDES SAY

SORT OF YEAH. ALSO IT'S AGAINST TOURNAMENT RULES TO HIT ON YOUR OPPONENTS.

BUT THAT'S AT LEAST TWO GAMES THEY'RE STUCK WITH YOU UNLESS THEY FORFEIT! IT'S PERFECT!

I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS IT'S AGAINST THE RULES.



RULES WRITTEN BY  
MAN-HATING FEMINISTS!

OKAY, UH...  
EHPFT! YOUR TURN.

MY TURN? I'M AT  
NEGATIVE THREE  
LIFE YOU JUST  
WON THE MATCH.

I DID?  
OH, UH...

GREAT  
THAT'S  
GREAT ADD  
INSULT TO  
INJURY

HERE'S  
THE  
RESULTS  
SLIP YOU  
TAKE IT  
UP

RIGHT  
SORRY

SO DISTRACTED  
BUT HEY I GUESS  
I CAN STILL WIN  
ON A SORT OF  
MENTAL AUTO-  
PILOT AT THIS  
POINT GO ME

I REALLY  
SHOULD TRY  
USING MY SIGHT  
ON THAT GIRLY  
PINK-HAIRED GUY  
AND THAT  
ENORMOUS  
SQUINTY GUY  
AGAIN.

IF EITHER OF THEM  
WERE REALLY THE  
SOURCE OF THAT  
BLINDING AURA, IT  
WOULD BE HUGE

FOR REASONS  
THAT I'M NOT  
ENTIRELY SURE  
OF

I HATE THIS TONIGHT WAS  
SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE BIT  
OF RECON. DAMMIT AND NOW  
THERE'S SUPER POWERED CLERK  
GIRL, A WEIRD LIGHT

AND OF COURSE YET  
ANOTHER INSTANCE OF ME  
FINDING AN OBVIOUSLY  
STRAIGHT GUY HOT

DAMMIT LUKE STOP  
FANTASIZING ABOUT  
LOOKING FOR HIS  
MARK MANUALLY

OH HEY,  
LUKE! WON YOUR  
MATCH?

JUSTIN, LISTEN. THIS  
IS GONNA SOUND CRAZY,  
BUT I THINK YOU HAVE A  
MAGIC MARK SOMEWHERE  
ON YOUR BODY



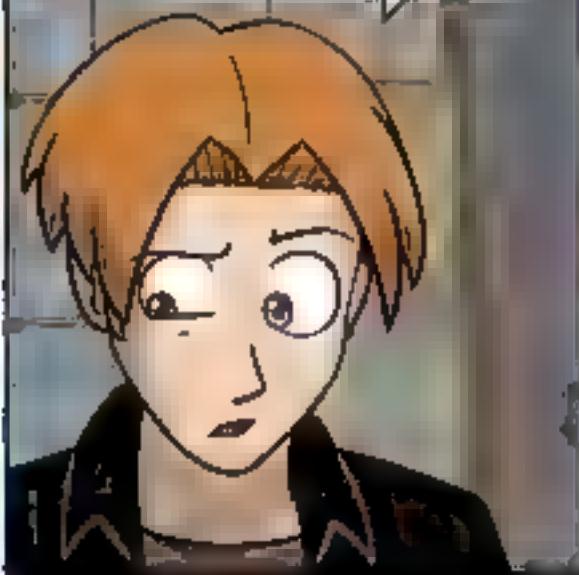
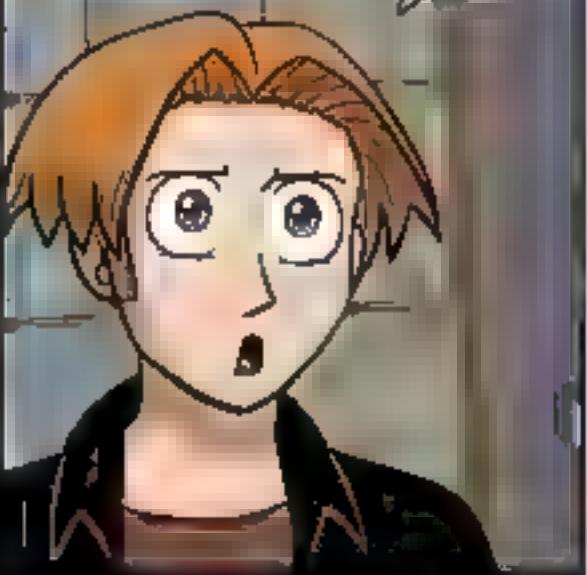
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S WHAT  
GAVE YOU THE POWER TO FIGHT  
OFF THAT FIRE GUY, AND MAYBE  
SOME SORT OF DRAGON THING

THAT DOES  
SOUND CRAZY,  
LUKE.

BUT I  
BELIEVE  
YOU.

YOU DO?

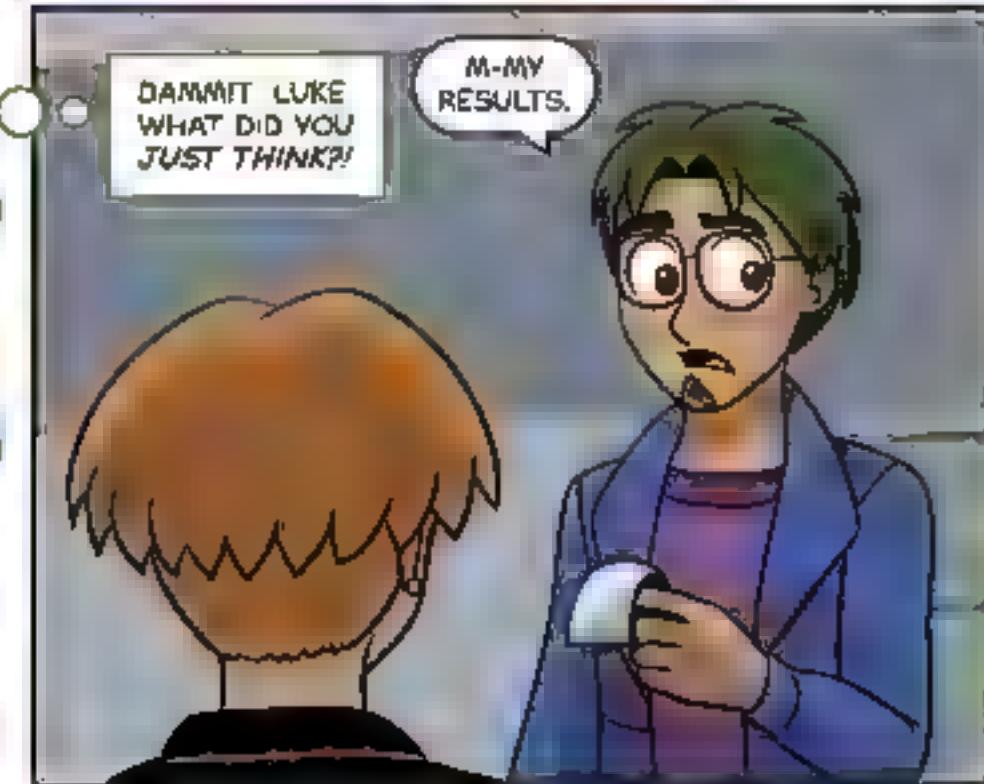
YES YOU SEEM LIKE A COOL GUY I  
CAN TRUST THING IS. IT'S BEEN  
MONTHS SINCE THOSE AWESOME  
THINGS HAPPENED AND I HAVEN'T  
SEEN ANY MARK



I'M GOING TO  
NEED YOU TO LOOK  
FOR ME.

DAMMIT LUKE  
WHAT DID YOU  
JUST THINK?

M-MY  
RESULTS.



WON BOTH GAMES, EH?  
CONGRATS!

NOTICE  
THE  
EARRING

HEH. I'M LUCKY WE  
DIDN'T NEED A THIRD.  
IT'S GOTTA ALMOST BE  
THE TIME LIMIT FOR  
THE ROUND.

OH. UH...

LITERALLY  
THREE  
SECONDS  
LEFT

TIME! THAT'S TIME!

YOU  
KNOW IF  
ANYONE'S  
ACTUALLY  
STILL...  
UH.

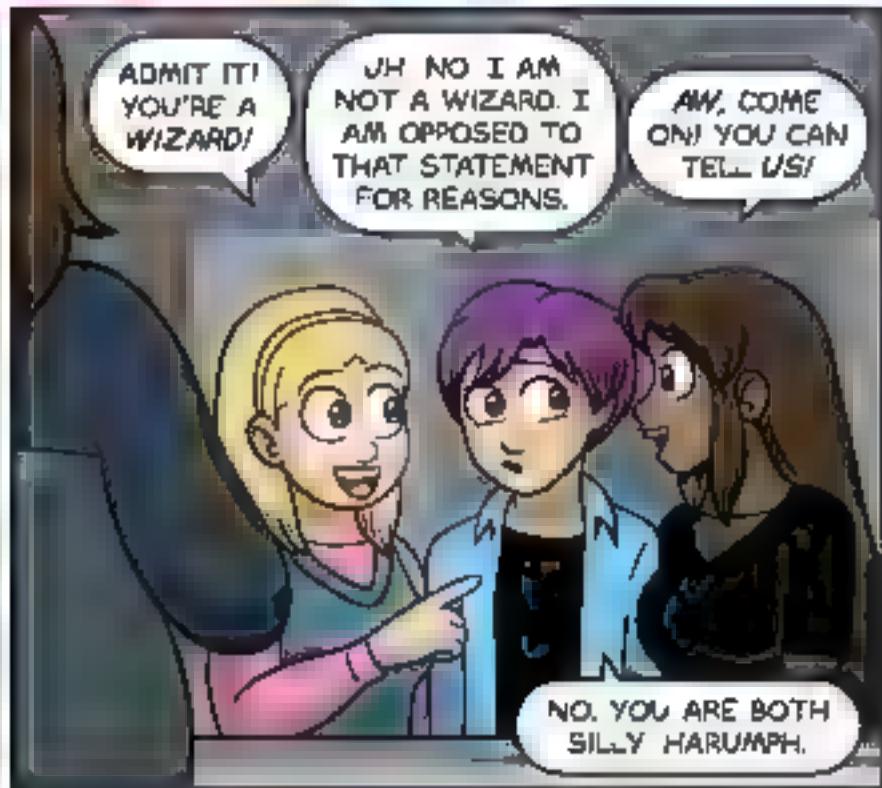
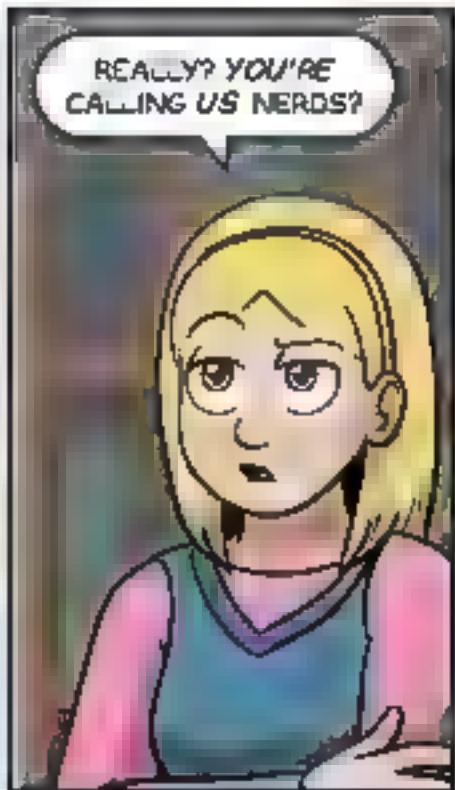
OKAY YEAH.  
YOU WERE LAST  
TO FINISH. HEH.  
ROUND'S OVER.

COOL. COOL. I'LL,  
UH LEAVE YOU TO  
SET UP THE NEXT  
ROUND THEN.

YEAH. OKAY

NOTICE IT  
NOTICE IT  
NOTICE IT

I HATE EVERYTHING



I'VE GOT  
A COUPLE  
MINUTES  
UNTIL  
THE NEXT  
ROUND.

THAT'S NOT  
ENOUGH TIME TO  
GET TO KNOW THAT  
GIRL BETTER BUT I  
CAN TRY "LOOKING"  
AGAIN.

ALMOST EVERYONE IS JUST  
HANGING OUT AT THE TABLES  
WAITING FOR THE NEXT ROUND  
INCLUDING THAT BIG GUY I CAN  
CHECK THEM ALL EASILY

I JUST NEED  
TO BRACE FOR  
ANOTHER FLASH,  
JUST IN CASE.



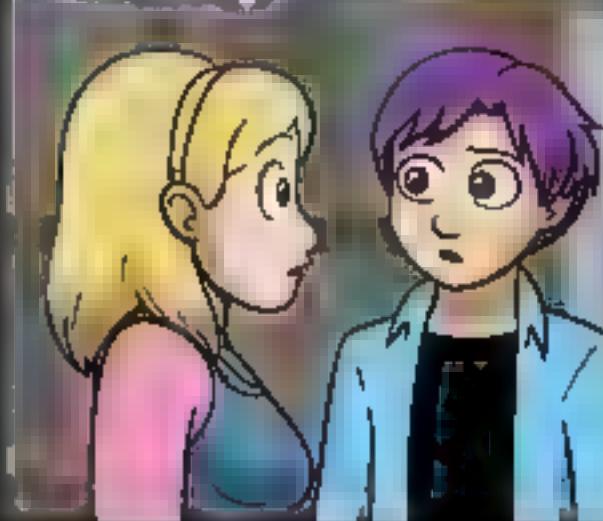
COULD YOU  
JUST USE THAT  
MAGIC VISION OF  
YOURS TO CHECK  
IF JUSTIN HAS  
A MARK?

I'M NOT SURE  
I DON'T THINK  
SO? I HAD TO BE  
TOLD ABOUT  
SUSAN'S

MAY AS  
WELL TRY YOU  
LITERALLY JUST  
HAVE TO LOOK  
AT HIM, RIGHT?

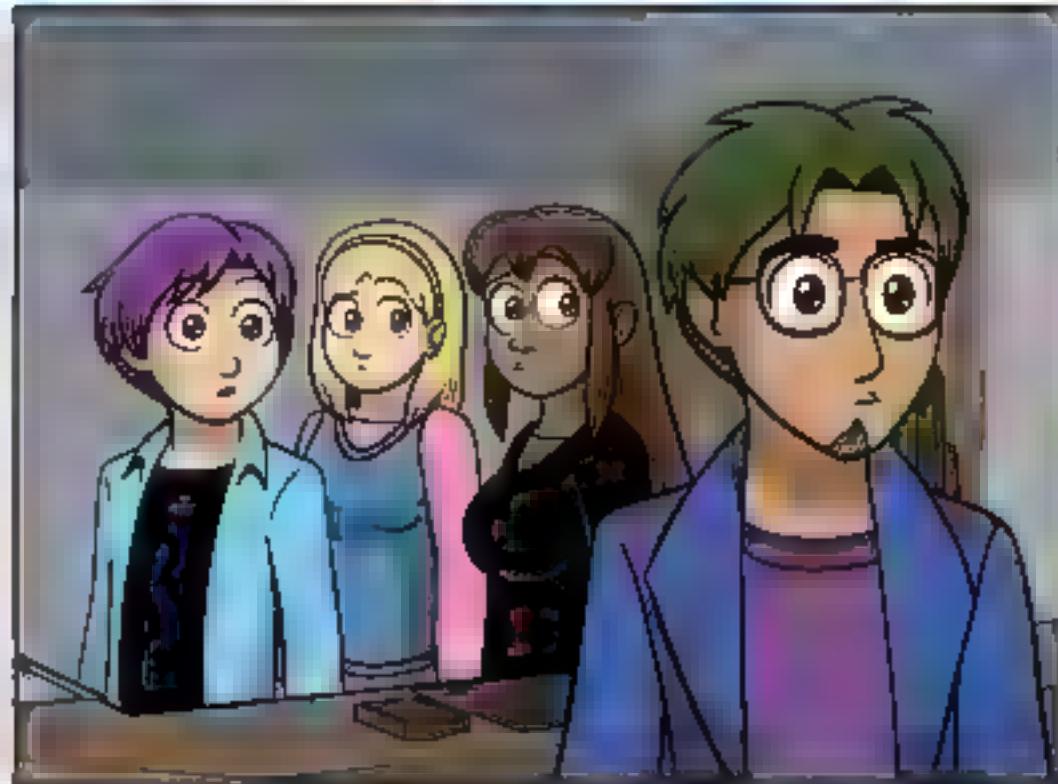
SURE I'LL  
STARE AT  
JUSTIN THAT  
WON'T WEIRD  
HIM OUT OR  
ANYTHING

I GUARANTEE  
HE'S TOO  
DISTRACTED TO  
BE BOthered  
BY IT



WELL IF HE  
IS MARKED, I  
APPARENTLY  
CAN'T TELL BY...

WAIT





HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THAT GREEN-HAIRED GUY?

LUKE? I ONLY JUST MET HIM TONIGHT HE SEEMS NICE THOUGH. AND JUSTIN LIKES HIM.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING?

BECAUSE I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TELL IF JUSTIN HAS A MARK BUT I AM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN THAT GUY CAN!



YOU WHAT?

HE WAS JUST USING SOME SORT OF MAGIC PROWESS DETECTION SPELL IF HE'S BEEN USING THAT ALL NIGHT...

HOLY CRAP IF SOMEONE IN THIS COMIC SHOP HAS MAGIC ABILITIES THAT GUY KNOWS ABOUT IT!

MY ABILITIES ARE TECHNICALLY MAGIC RIGHT?

YES!



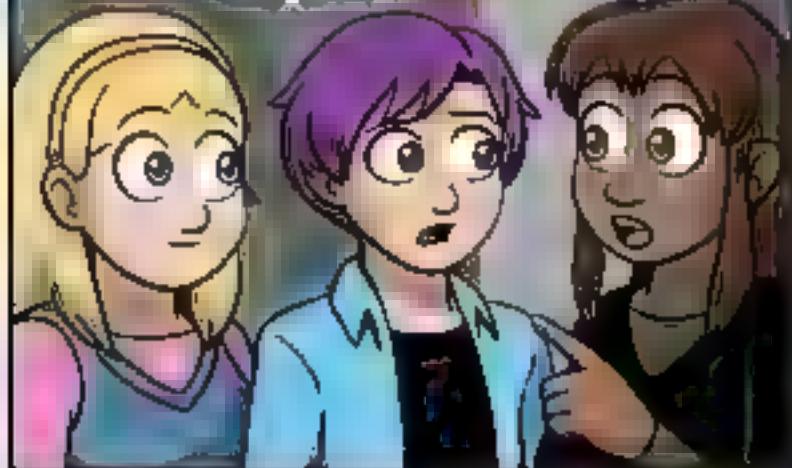
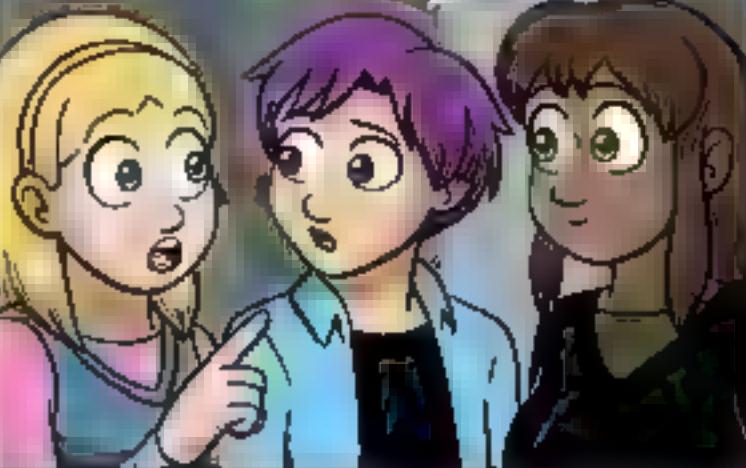
FREAK OUT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY ATTRACTION TO ME CONFIRMED

OKAY BUT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM BAD, RIGHT? I MEAN WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT AN IMMORTAL IS RUNNING AROUND GIVING PEOPLE POWERS THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT BUT WILL WIND UP USING BY ACCIDENT, RIGHT?

AND ANYONE WHO DISCOVERED THEY HAD SUCH AN ABILITY WOULD NATURALLY USE IT A LOT! ESPECIALLY IF LIVING IN AN AREA WITH HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MAGIC-USING PEOPLE WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE MARKS NOW!

WELL

YES, BUT



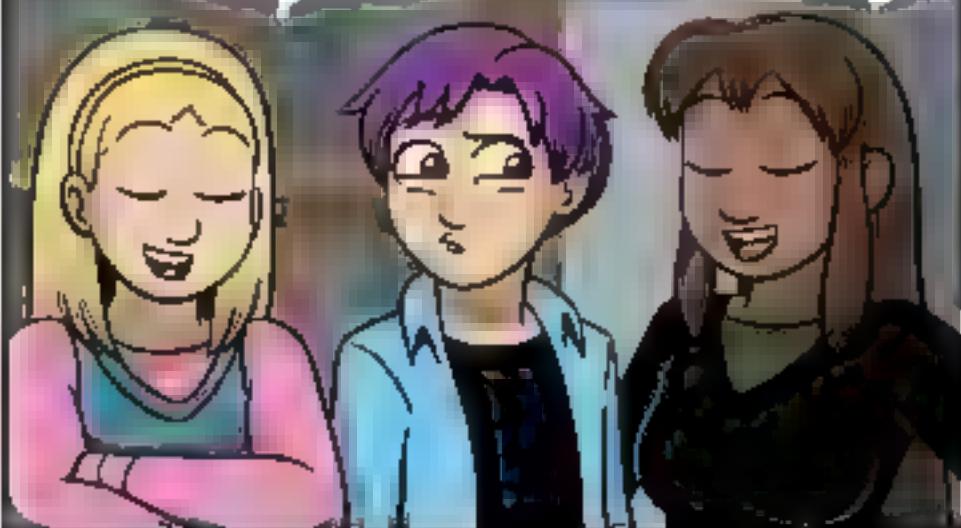
AND JUSTIN LIKES HIM AFTER SPENDING A ROUND WITH HIM

I THINK IT'S A GOOD BET THAT LUKE IS TRUSTWORTHY

YEP! TOTALLY

SOUND LOGIC

I'M CLEARLY MISSING SOMETHING. IS THERE SOME SPECIAL REASON YOU TWO ARE SO READY TO ASSUME HE'S A GOOD GUY?



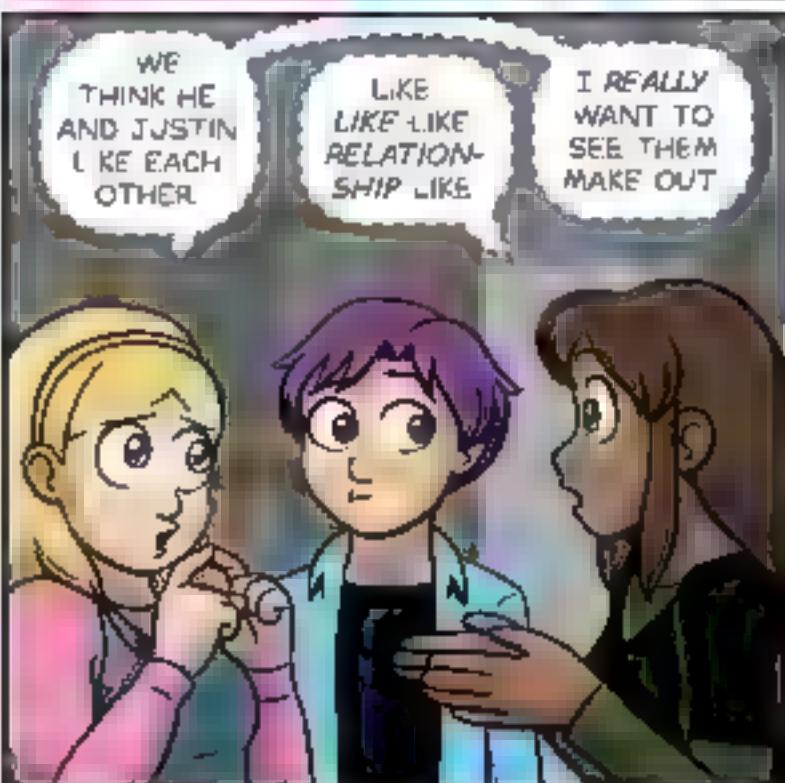
WE THINK HE AND JUSTIN LIKE EACH OTHER.

LIKE LIKE-LIKE RELATIONSHIP LIKE

I REALLY WANT TO SEE THEM MAKE OUT

BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE JUSTIN HAPPY AND STUFF

TEAM LUKE

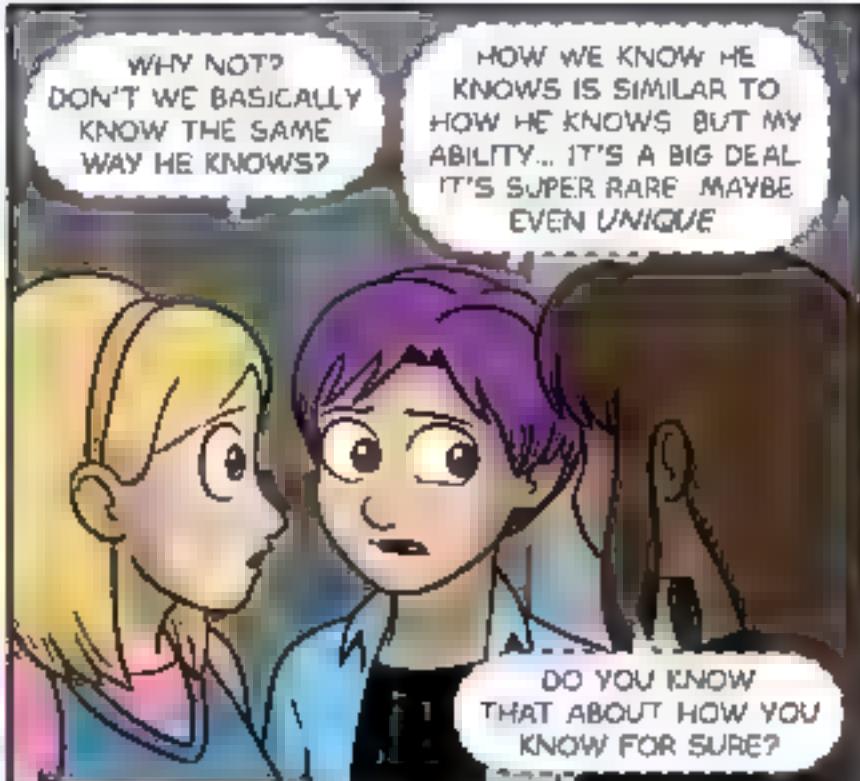


I. I DUNNO I  
MEAN WHAT HE  
KNOWS IS VAGUE  
AND WE CAN'T  
TELL HIM HOW WE  
KNOW HE KNOWS

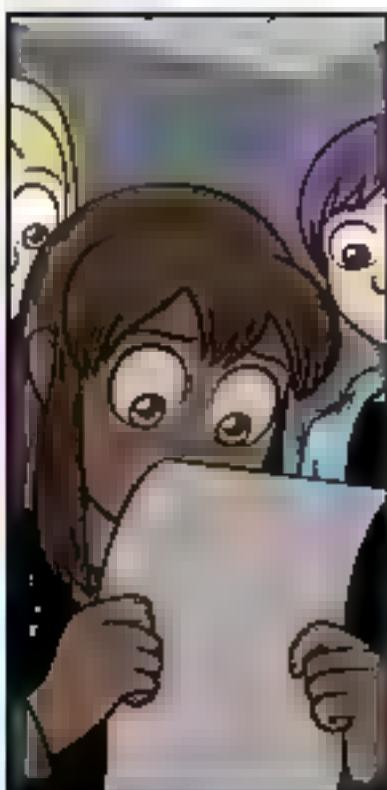
WHY NOT?  
DON'T WE BASICALLY  
KNOW THE SAME  
WAY HE KNOWS?

HOW WE KNOW HE  
KNOWS IS SIMILAR TO  
HOW HE KNOWS BUT MY  
ABILITY... IT'S A BIG DEAL  
IT'S SUPER RARE. MAYBE  
EVEN UNIQUE

PRETTY SURE



YOU ARE A FAR  
MORE DANGEROUS  
RARITY...



WELL... WE  
CAN'T REALLY  
TALK ABOUT IT  
DURING THE GAME  
CAN WE?

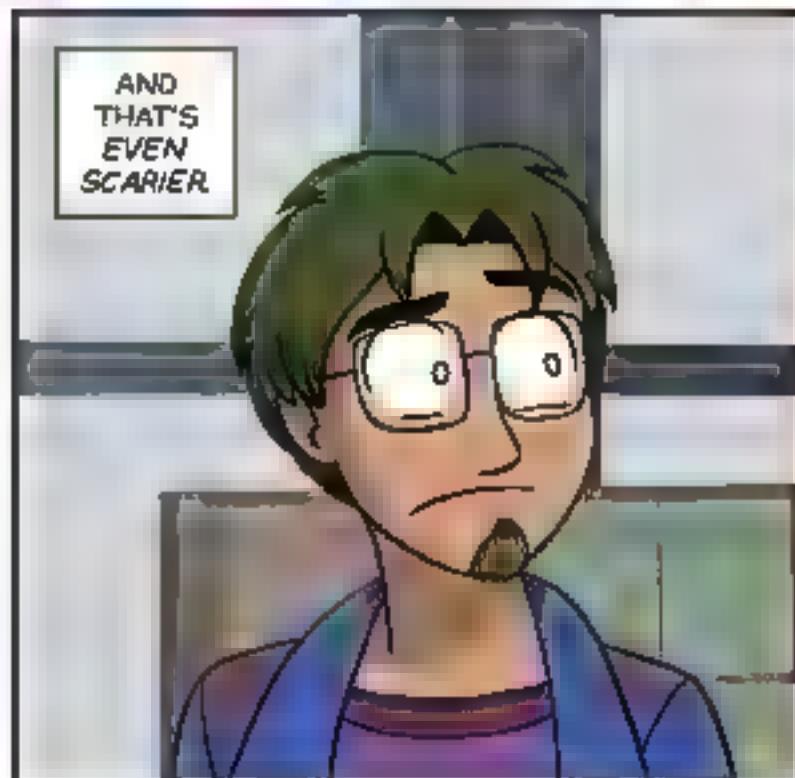
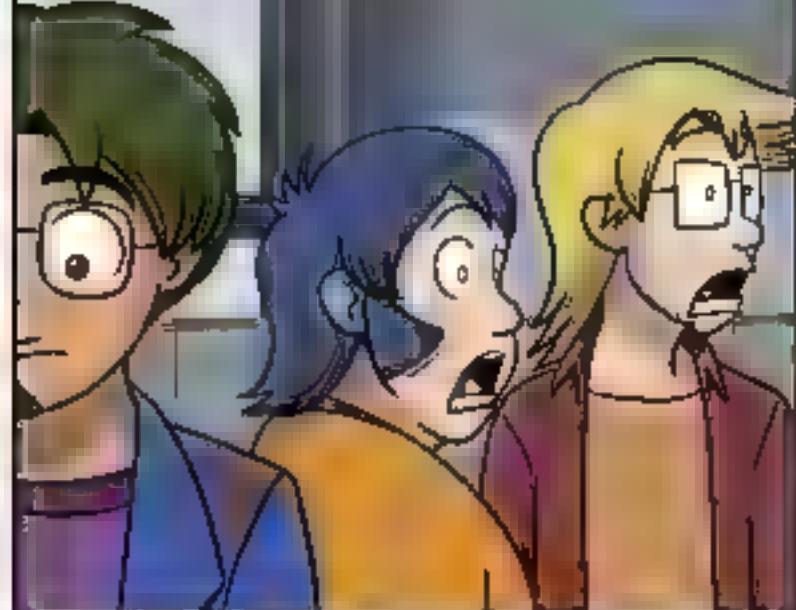
IF WE DO TRY TO  
TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT  
IT SHOULD BE AFTER  
THE TOURNAMENT

WELL, THE BIG  
GUY DOESN'T  
HAVE ANY  
SORT OF AURA  
OR FLASH, AND  
NOBODY ELSE  
HANGING OUT  
AT THE TABLES  
DOES EITHER.

THAT LEAVES THAT BLONDE  
GIRL AND PINK-HAIRED GUY...  
WHO'S TALKING TO SUPER  
POWERFUL GIRL... GREAT...

I'M AFRAID TO CHECK  
IF HE'S THE SOURCE OF  
THE FLASH AND FRIENDS  
WITH HER, THAT COULD  
BE PRETTY SCARY...

AND  
THAT'S  
EVEN  
SCARIER



FINAL ROUND PAIRINGS ARE UP!

THEY'RE LESBOS?!

I'M PRETTY SURE "SHE'S" GRACE'S BOYFRIEND.



NOT OUT IN THE WILD, DUMBASS. THAT STUPID LOOSE OVERSHIRT WAS OPEN.

IT IS NOW, TOO AND HE LOOKS FLAT AS A PANCAKE



YOU NEED NEW GLASSES. THEN BECAUSE SHE

THE @#\$&?!

DOES THIS MAKE US BI-CURIOUS OR ARE SOME DUDES JUST THAT GIRLY?



HE WAS A  
GIRL BEFORE!  
I KNOW HE  
WAS!

SURE  
HE WAS.

I'M SERIOUS!  
AND HIS HAIR  
CHANGED  
COLOR!

THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU

WAIT  
WASN'T  
IT PINK?

SEE? I  
THOUGHT I  
IMAGINED IT  
BUT...

HOLY CRAP HE  
ACTUALLY CHANGED.

DO YOU  
REALIZE WHAT  
THIS MEANS?

I DO.

TEDD IS A SEX  
CHANGING SPACE  
ALIEN HERE TO STUDY  
HUMAN SEXUALITY!

AND I  
STILL HAVE A  
SHOT WITH  
HIM!

ALIEN?

DUDE?!

WHAT? HE  
HAS A GIRL  
MODE

A BIZARRE  
BRIGHT LIGHT

STRANGE AND  
POWERFUL AURAS

WHAT IF THEY ARE  
ALIENS? IS THAT EVEN THAT  
FARFETCHED A NOTION?

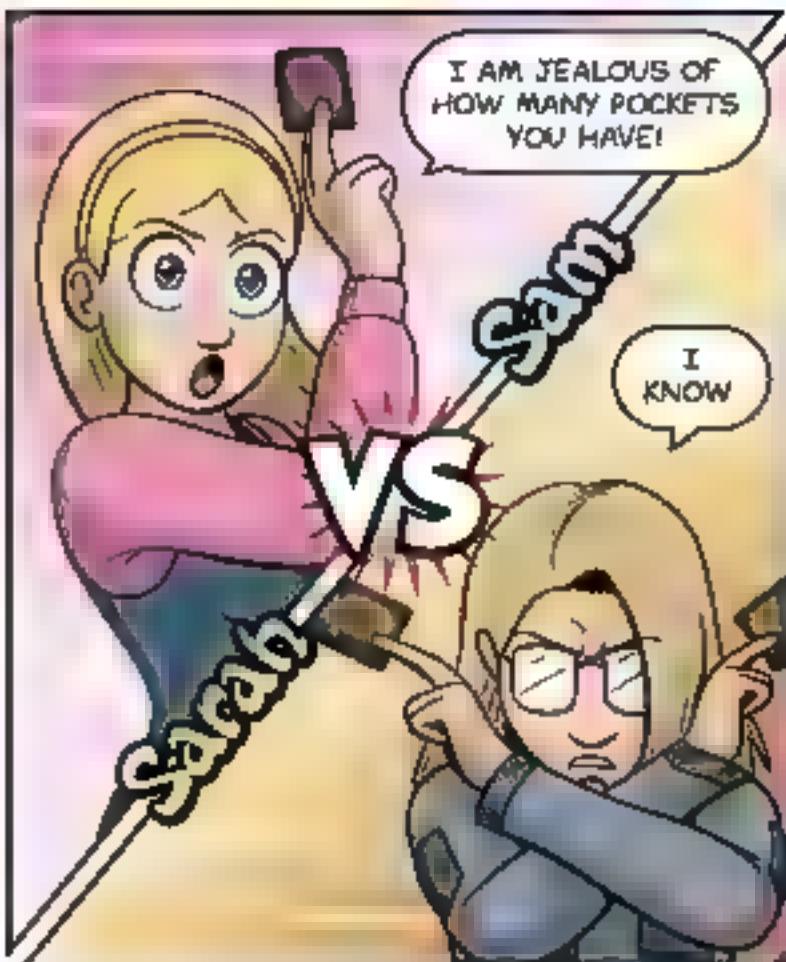
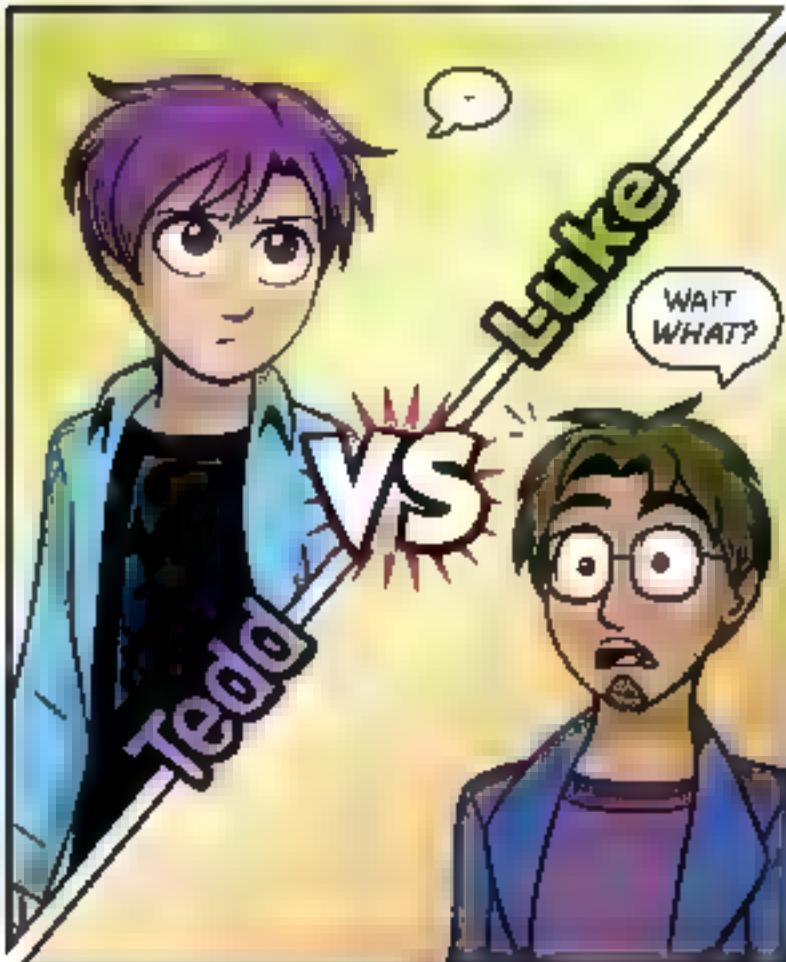
IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY  
THEY'RE DIFFERENT IT  
MIGHT SOMEHOW EXPLAIN  
THE BRIGHT LIGHT IT...

IT MIGHT EVEN  
EXPLAIN WHERE THE  
MARKS CAME FROM.

EEP

# FINAL BATTLE

("Battle" = best two out of three card games in some tournament)



YOUR ARGUMENT IS SERIOUSLY "THAT GUY IS HOT AND I WANT TO SEE HIM MAKE OUT WITH MY HOT FRIEND"?

WELL NOT EXACTLY.

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY BUT WE NEED TO THINK BIG PICTURE HERE AND THAT PICTURE IS.. WELL I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT PICTURE IS BUT HE KNOWS MORE THAN I'M COMFORTABLE WITH.



BUT WAIT SO YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT HE KNOWS YOU GRACE AND JUSTIN HAVE MAGIC?

IF HE'S BEEN "LOOKING" AROUND ALL NIGHT THEN YEAH. NOT ONLY THAT BUT.. YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A 'FREAK OUT'?

YEAH HE RAN OFF AFTER HE FIRST SAW ME BUT HE CAME BACK

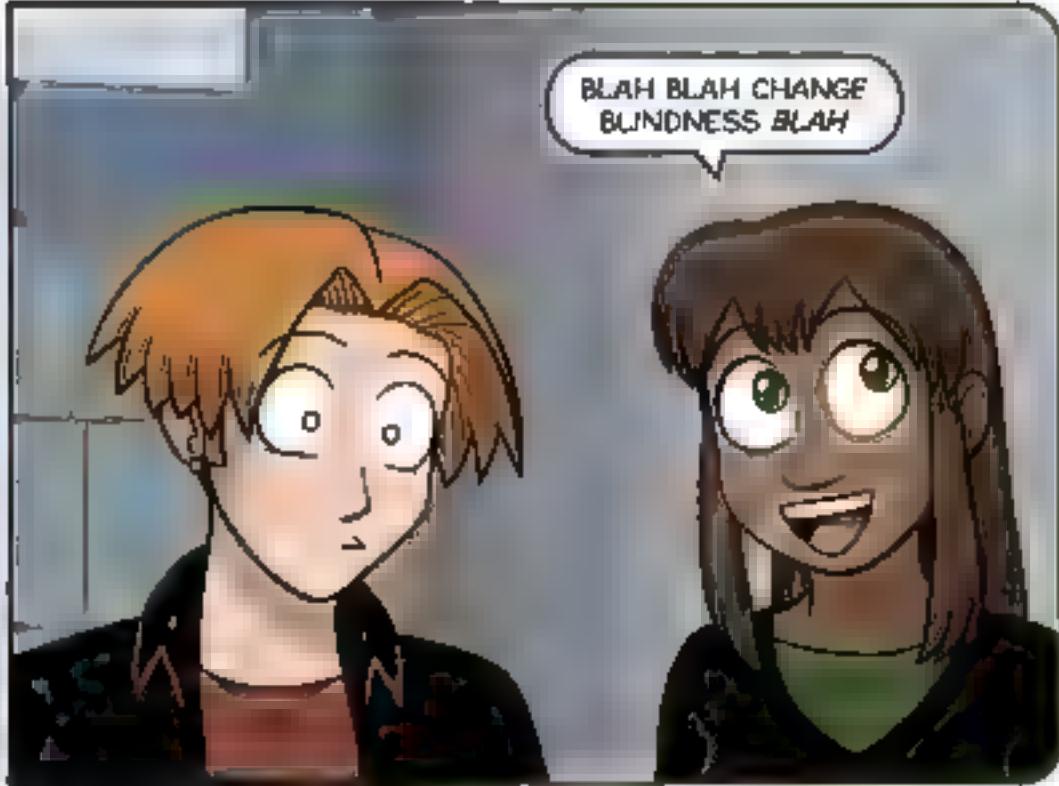
SEE NOT ONLY IS THAT SUSPICIOUS, BUT IT SUGGESTS HE COULD TELL THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT GRACE



RIGHT RIGHT AND THAT COULD BE BAD BUT HE ALREADY KNOWS, RIGHT? MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT?



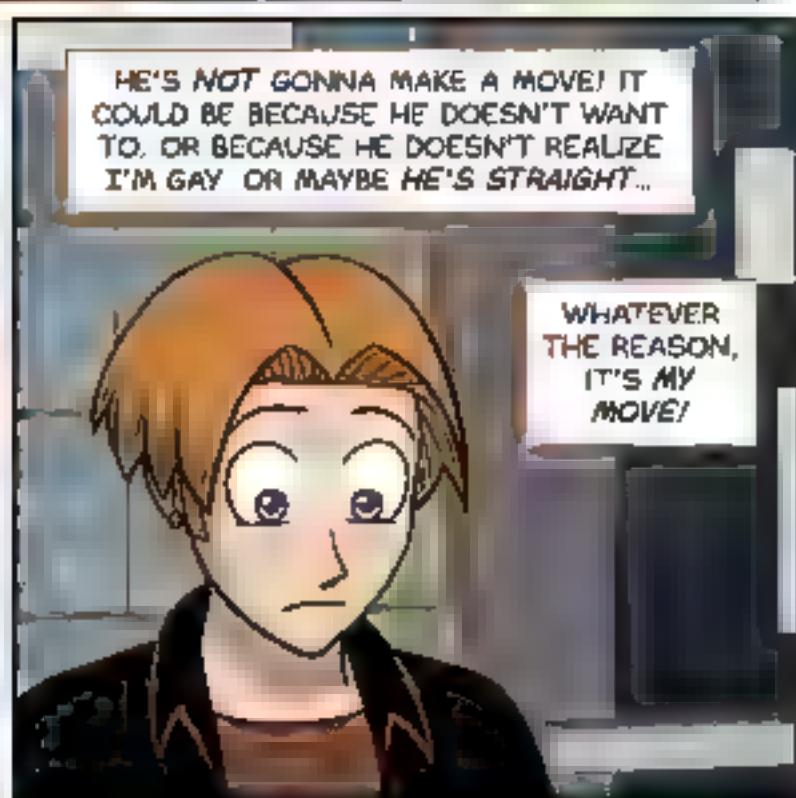
HOW COULD HE NOT NOTICE THE EARRING?! IT'S SO BLUE AND SWEET AND...



## PSYCHOLOGY~!



HE'S NOT GONNA MAKE A MOVE! IT COULD BE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO. OR BECAUSE HE DOESN'T REALIZE I'M GAY OR MAYBE HE'S STRAIGHT...



OKAY CALM DOWN. THERE'S ONE ROUND LEFT AND YOU'VE STILL GOT A TOURNAMENT TO RUN.



A TOURNAMENT YOU'RE JUDGING.

THAT LUKE IS PLAYING IN.

I'VE HEARD WORSE EXCUSES TO PUT OFF DOING SOMETHING SCARY!



IF IT IS REAL.  
WHY WOULD I  
DREAM ABOUT  
IT?

IS THIS ONE OF  
MY COOL ALIEN  
HYBRID POWERS.  
LIKE BEING SUPER  
GOOD AT MATH?

THE CUBE  
ROOT OF  
 $857\,375$  IS  $95$ !  
KA-BLAMMO!

OR MAYBE SOMEONE  
TRIED TO TELL ME  
SOMETHING THROUGH  
MY DREAMS!

WHAT IF  
THE IMMORTAL  
HERSELF -

"HERSELF"?  
WAIT... I  
SAW HER...

THAT FLOATING  
GIRL WHO WAS  
ON THE NEWS!

SHE'S THE  
IMMORTAL WHO'S  
MARKING PEOPLE!

ASSUMING THE  
DREAMS ARE REAL  
AND SHE WASN'T  
JUST IN THEM  
BECAUSE I SAW  
HER ON THE NEWS  
AND STUFF

I ACTUALLY  
WOULD LIKE TO  
CHECK MY COMIC  
SUBSCRIPTIONS  
FOR NEW  
COMICS NOW

THERE.  
YOUR TURN.

DUDE WE'VE TALKED  
ABOUT THIS. YOU CAN'T  
THINK ABOUT ALIENS  
AND PLAY CARD GAMES  
AT THE SAME TIME YOU  
GET TOO GRUMPY.

I'M NOT  
GRUMPY I'M  
WEIRDDED OUT

WEIRDDED OUT?  
BY WHAT?

YOU SAID YOU'D  
DATE A DUDE IF  
THEY TURNED  
INTO A GIRL.

THAT'S...  
THAT'S GAY,  
DUDE...

WHAT? NO IT'S  
NOT IT'S MORE  
LIKE THE EXACT  
OPPOSITE

BESIDES, IT  
WOULDN'T  
MATTER TO  
YOU IF I WAS  
GAY RIGHT?

IT WOULD  
MATTER?

YEAH IT WOULD  
MATTER! WHAT IF YOU HIT  
ON ME OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S REALLY NOT  
SOMETHING YOU'D NEED  
TO WORRY ABOUT

WHAT, I'M NOT  
GOOD ENOUGH  
FOR YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU  
EVEN--DO YOU WANT  
ME TO HIT ON YOU?!

I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT IF  
YOU WERE GAY YOU WOULD  
TOTALLY WANT ME.

UNLESS I'M--YOU  
JUDGE WOMEN BASED  
ON THEIR LOOKS ALL  
THE TIME.

THOSE ARE  
CHICKS. WE'RE  
BROS.

ASSUMING  
YOU'RE NOT  
GAY

I'M NOT, BUT...  
YOU REALLY HAVE A  
PROBLEM WITH GAY  
PEOPLE?

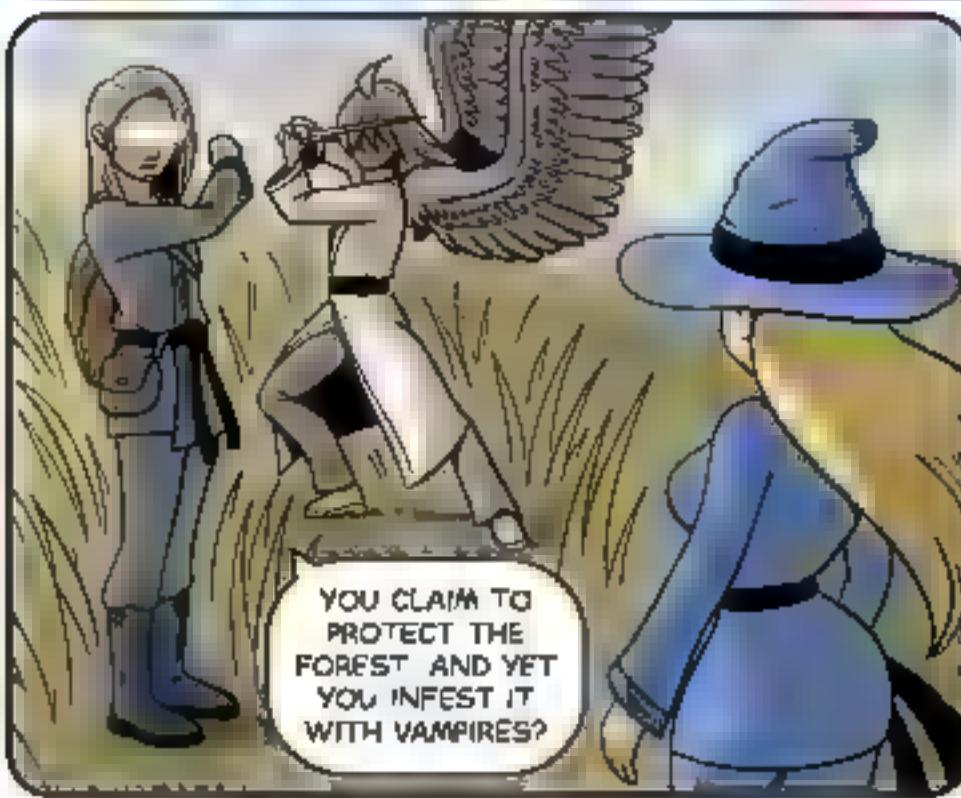
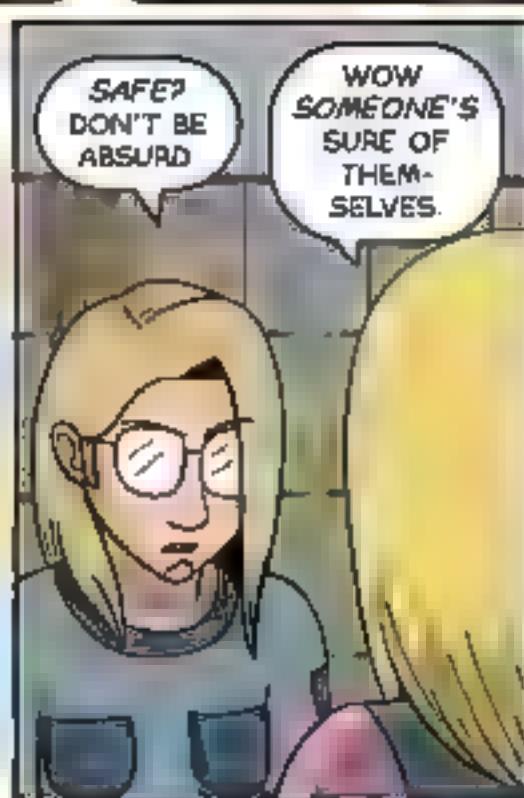
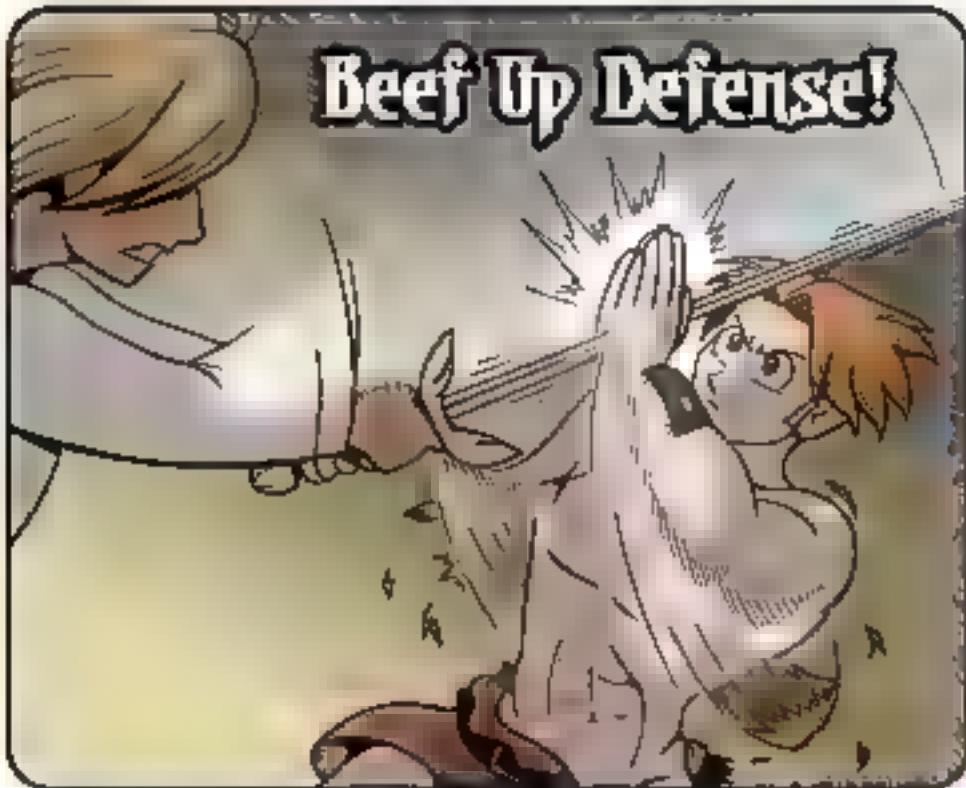
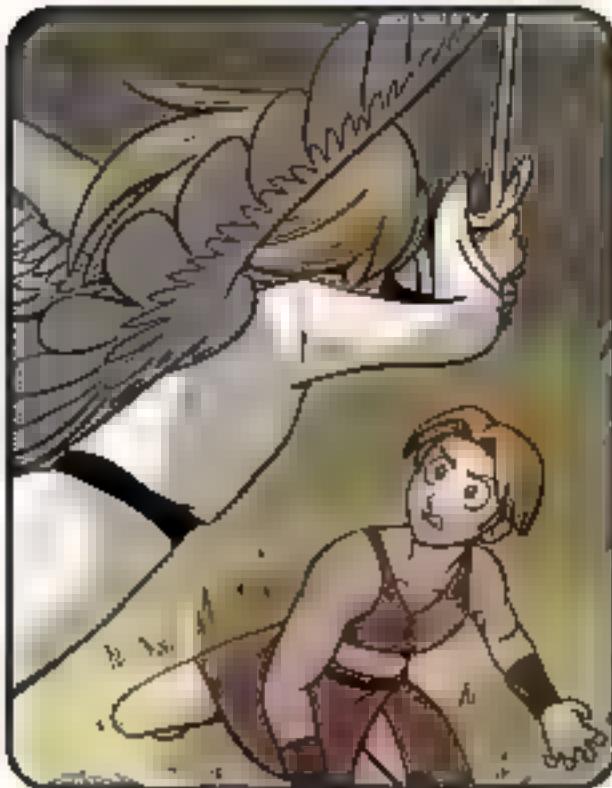
OF COURSE NOT! THEY  
CAN BE GAY ALL THEY WANT IN  
PRIVATE! THAT DOESN'T MEAN I  
WANNA HANG OUT WITH THEM.

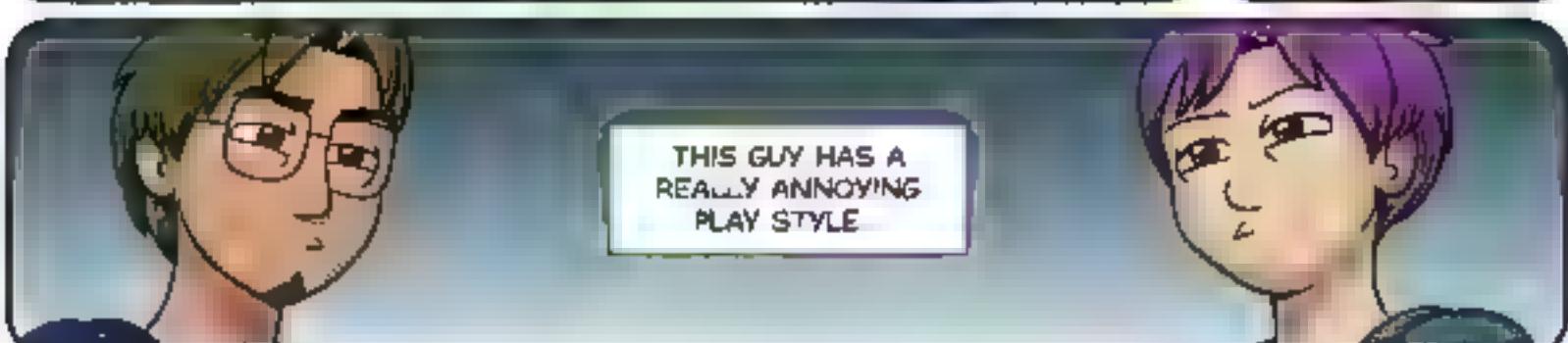
WELL THAT'S  
GOOD... SORT  
OF I GUESS

UNLESS THEY'RE LADIES  
BUT THEN ALL WOMEN ARE  
SECRETLY BISEXUAL

SCIENTIFIC FACT

# Beef Up Defense!

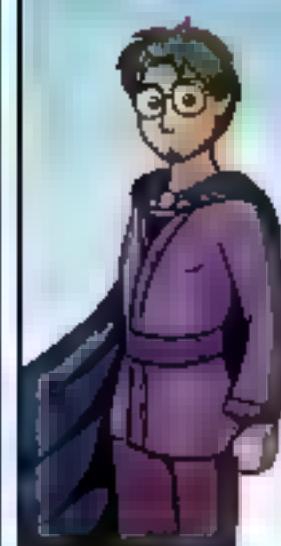
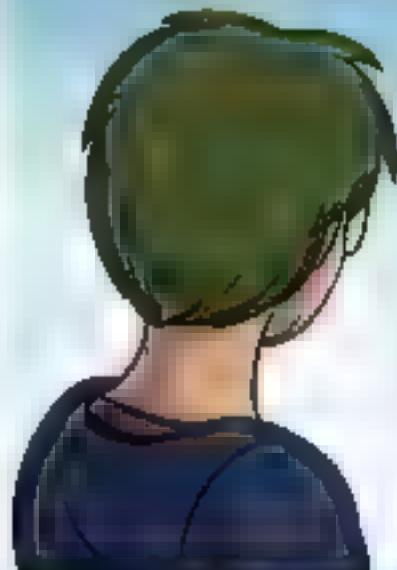




THIS GUY'S ENTIRE PLAY  
STYLE IS ABOUT CONTROL.

HE'S NOT  
INTERESTED IN  
WINNING WITH  
BRUTE FORCE.

AT LEAST NOT  
EARLY IN THE  
GAME



DRAWING EXTRA CARDS,  
CANCELING SPELLS... HIS  
STRATEGY IS TO LIMIT HIS  
OPPONENTS OPTIONS WHILE  
MAXIMIZING HIS OWN.

HE'S PATIENT HE  
WON'T SHOW HIS PLANS  
BEFORE HE NEEDS TO.

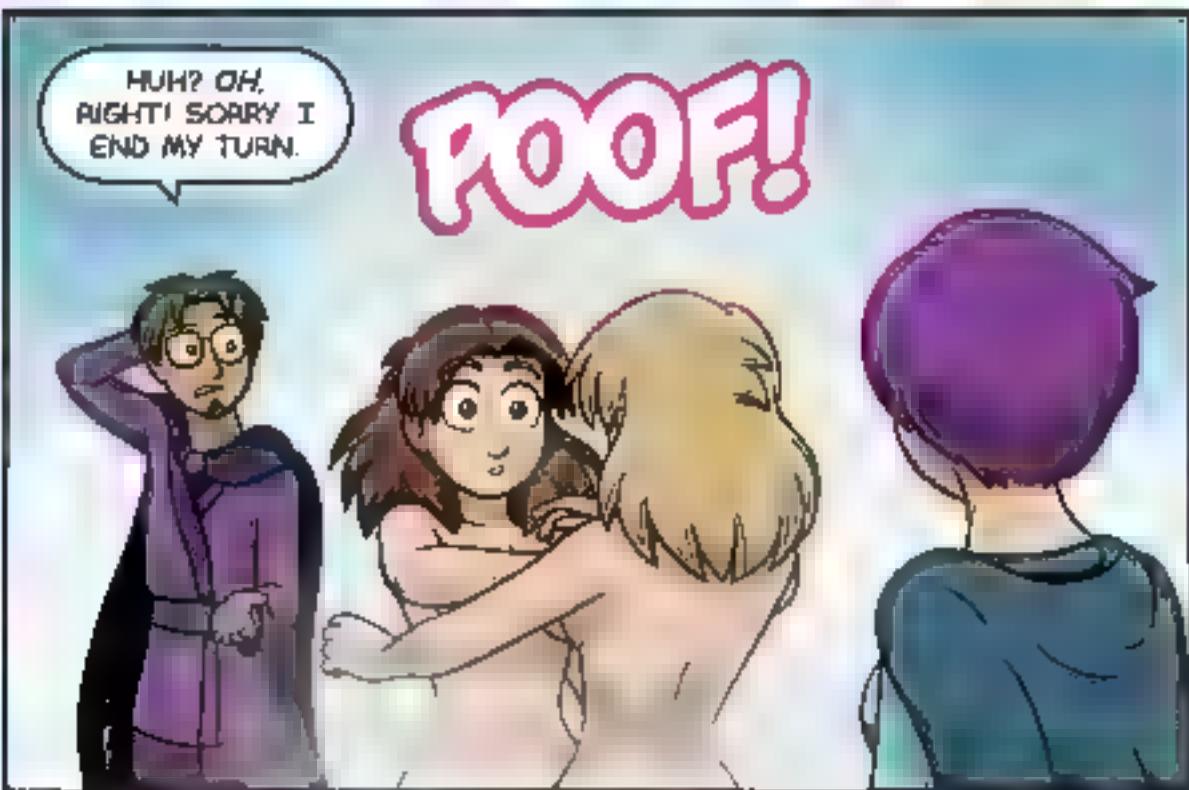
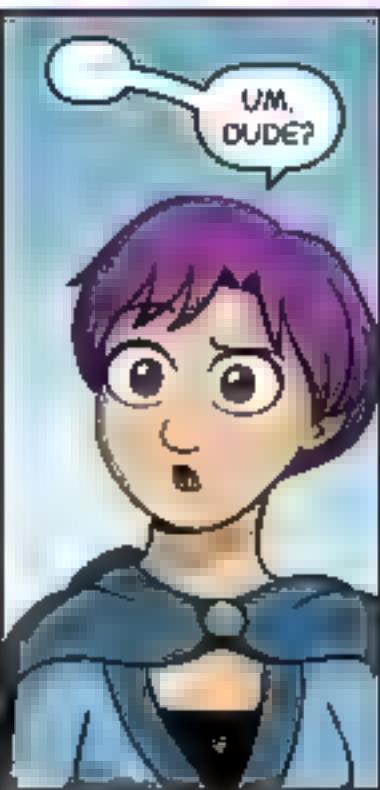
OR IS THIS THE  
SORT OF PERSON  
HE IS?

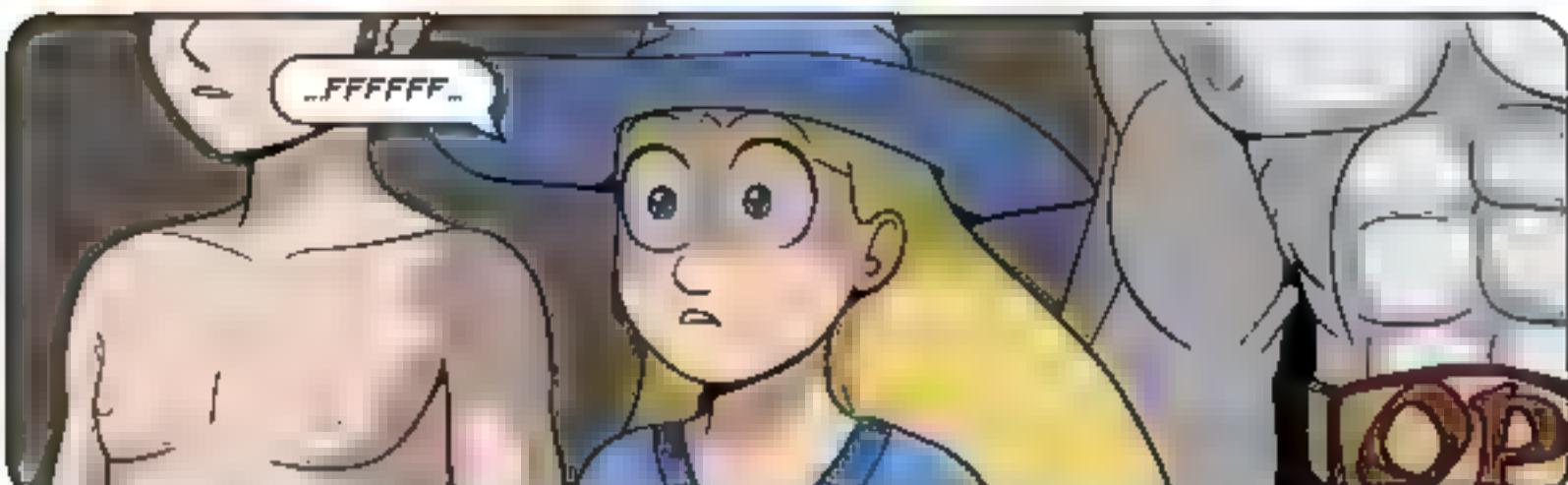
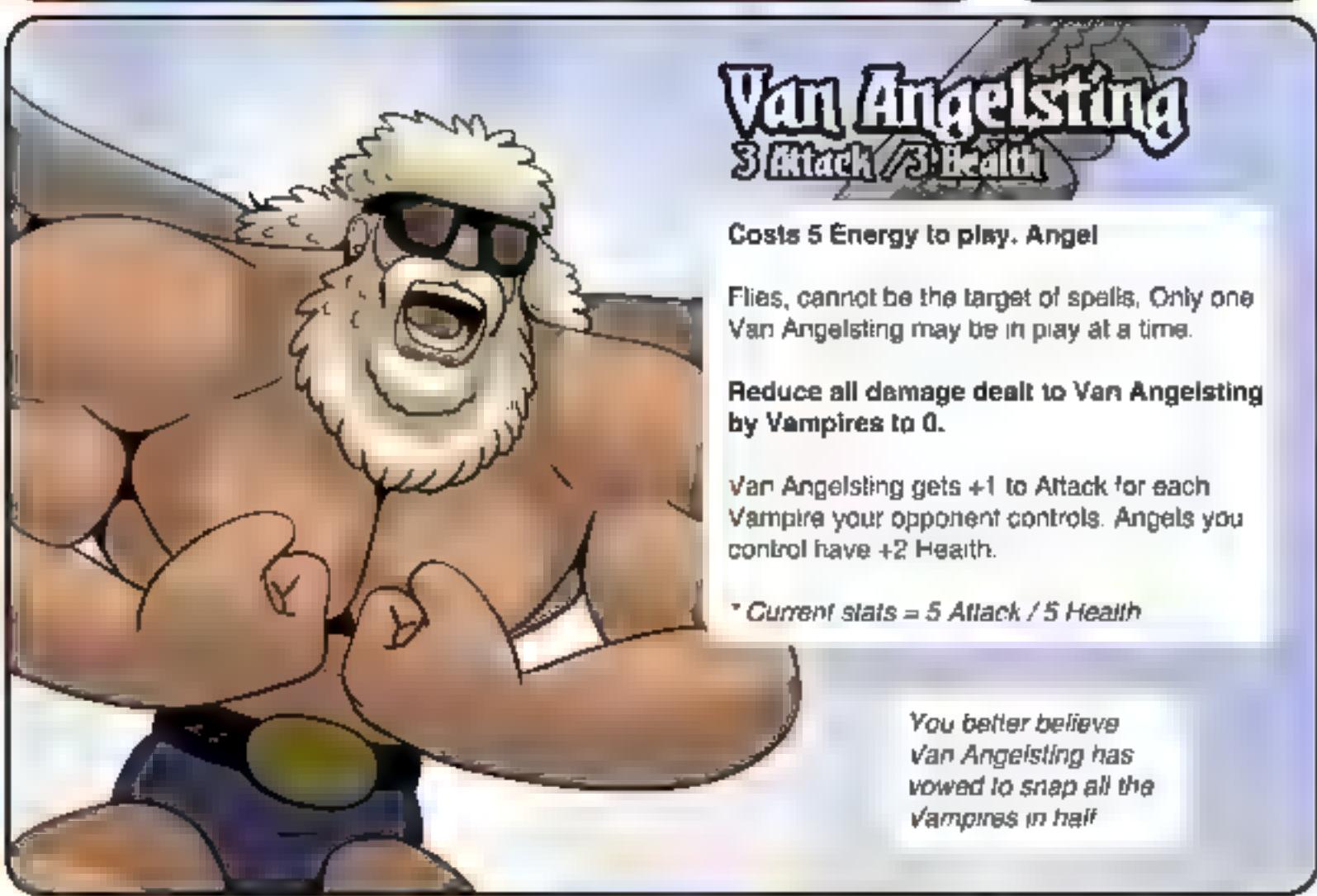


UH,  
DUDE?

HUH? OH,  
RIGHT! SORRY I  
END MY TURN.

POOF!





YOUR MOVE

OKAY OKAY, I CAN HANDLE THIS. JUST THINK IT THROUGH.

ANYTHING I CAN ATTACK WITH. EVEN ALUDRAKRALA LOSES TO ANGELSTING. AND ANGELSTING WILL SURVIVE

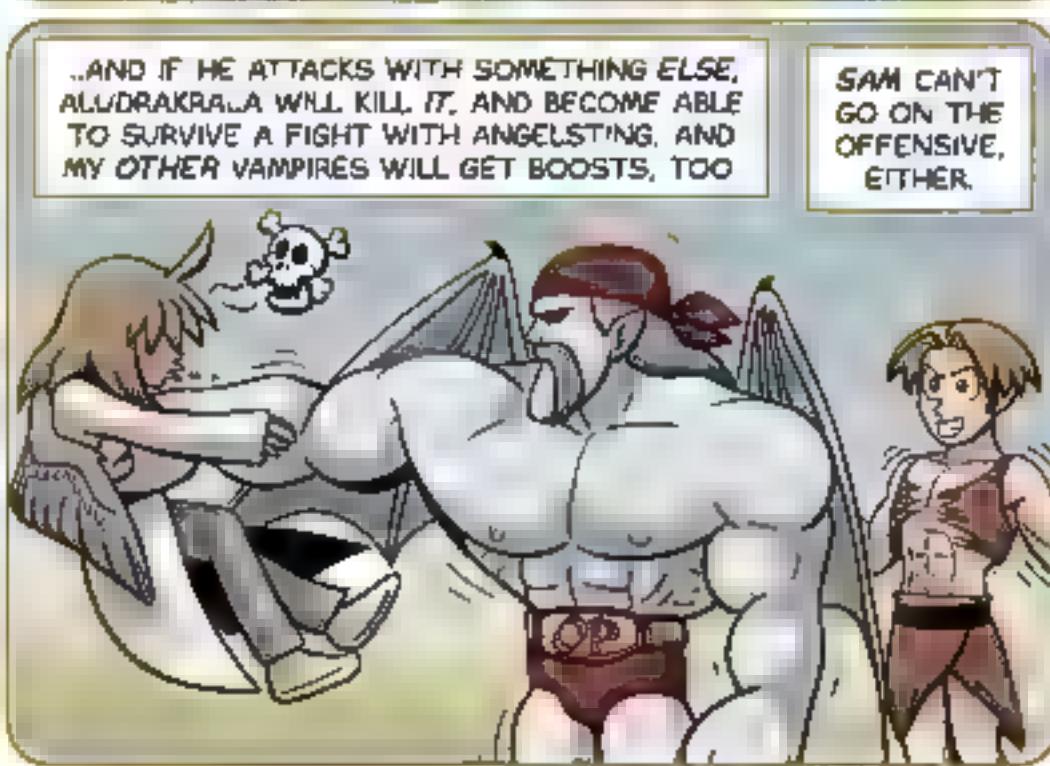
I CAN'T GO ON THE OFFENSIVE.



IF SAM ATTACKS WITH ANGELSTING ON HIS NEXT TURN, HOWEVER, THAT WOULD LEAVE HIM OPEN TO ATTACK ON MY TURN.

...AND IF HE ATTACKS WITH SOMETHING ELSE, ALUDRAKRALA WILL KILL IT, AND BECOME ABLE TO SURVIVE A FIGHT WITH ANGELSTING. AND MY OTHER VAMPIRES WILL GET BOOSTS, TOO

SAM CAN'T GO ON THE OFFENSIVE, EITHER.



I GUESS WE'RE BOTH JUST GOING TO FORTIFY OUR FORCES UNTIL ONE OF US FINDS AN OPENING

Twenty turns later...

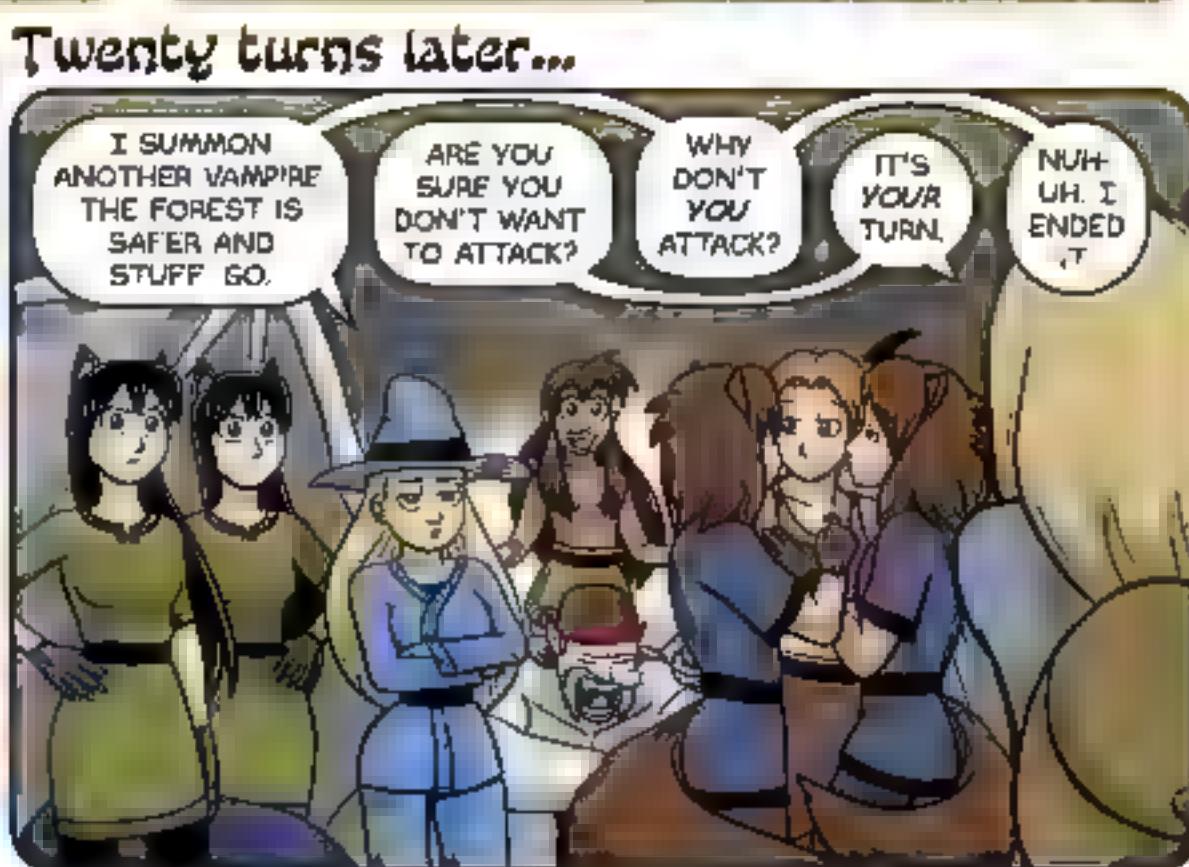
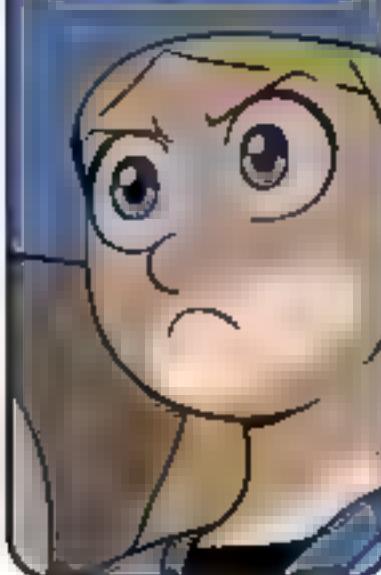
I SUMMON ANOTHER VAMPIRE THE FOREST IS SAFER AND STUFF GO.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO ATTACK?

WHY DON'T YOU ATTACK?

IT'S YOUR TURN.

NUH-UH. I ENDED IT



## Overpartyitus

Return target monster to their owner's hand.



## Unbalanced

Enchanted monster cannot fly



## Shortified

Enchanted monster has -3 Attack, +3 Health, and cannot attack.



## Diversified

Flip a coin whenever enchanted monster attacks, blocks, or uses an ability. If tails, they do nothing instead.



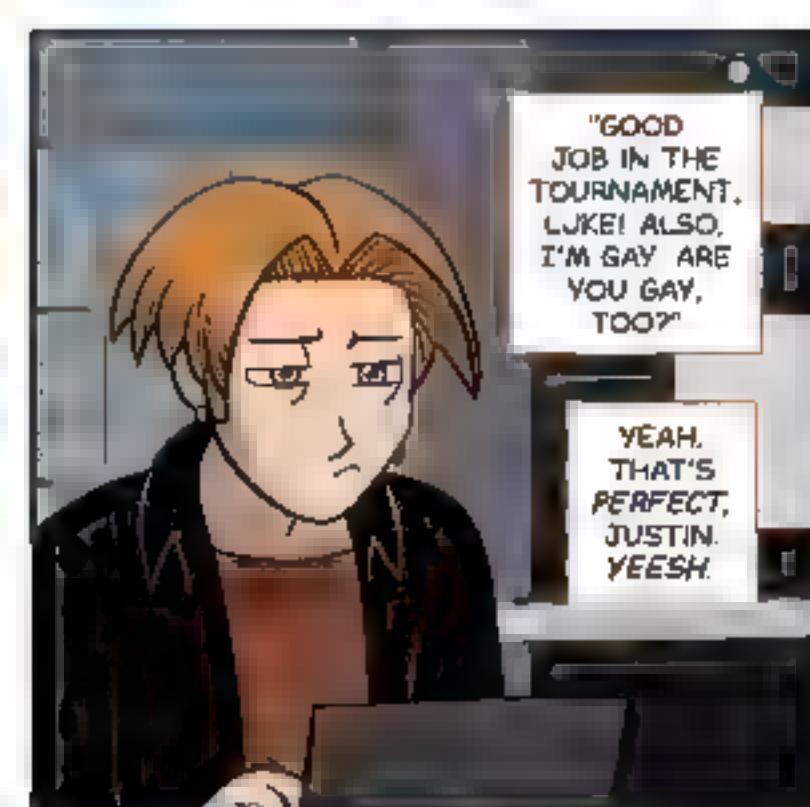
## Penguinitus

Target monster is a penguin



YOUR DECK IS INFURIATING!





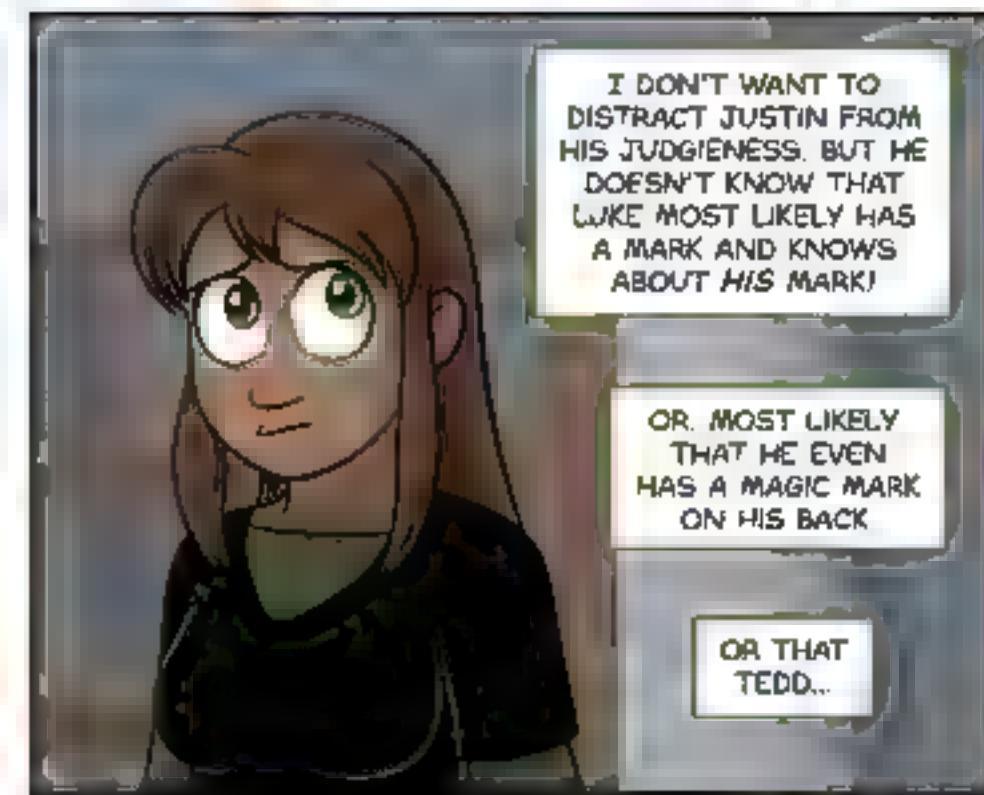
"GOOD JOB IN THE TOURNAMENT, LUKE! ALSO, I'M GAY ARE YOU GAY, TOO?"

YEAH, THAT'S PERFECT, JUSTIN. YEESH.



I'D BET MY LEFT ANTENNAE THAT JUSTIN'S WORKING ON WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY TO LUKE AFTER THE TOURNAMENT

NOT OL' RIGHTY THOUGH.



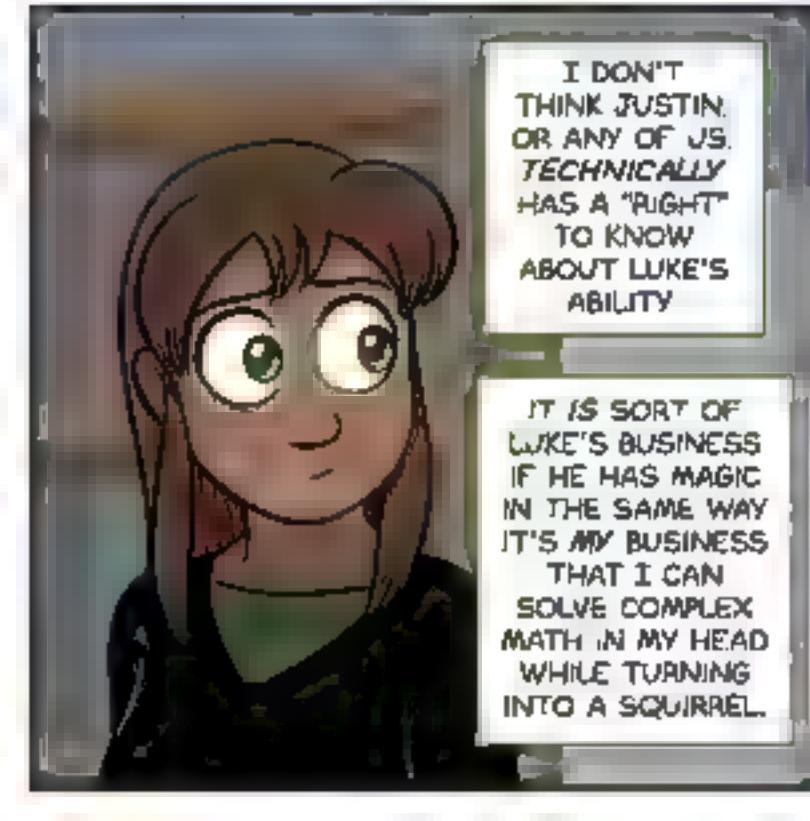
I DON'T WANT TO DISTRACT JUSTIN FROM HIS JUDGIENESS, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT LUKE MOST LIKELY HAS A MARK AND KNOWS ABOUT HIS MARK!

OR, MOST LIKELY THAT HE EVEN HAS A MAGIC MARK ON HIS BACK

OR, THAT TEDD...

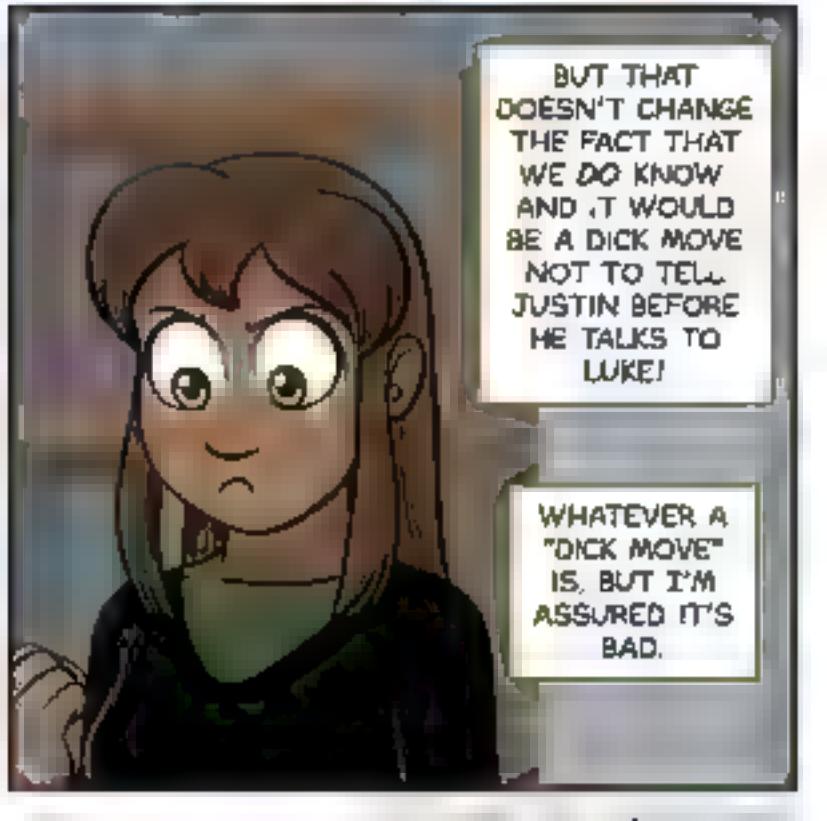


WOW WE HAVE NOT KEPT JUSTIN IN THE LOOP TONIGHT



I DON'T THINK JUSTIN OR ANY OF JS. TECHNICALLY HAS A "RIGHT" TO KNOW ABOUT LUKE'S ABILITY

IT IS SORT OF LUKE'S BUSINESS IF HE HAS MAGIC IN THE SAME WAY IT'S MY BUSINESS THAT I CAN SOLVE COMPLEX MATH IN MY HEAD WHILE TURNING INTO A SQUIRREL.

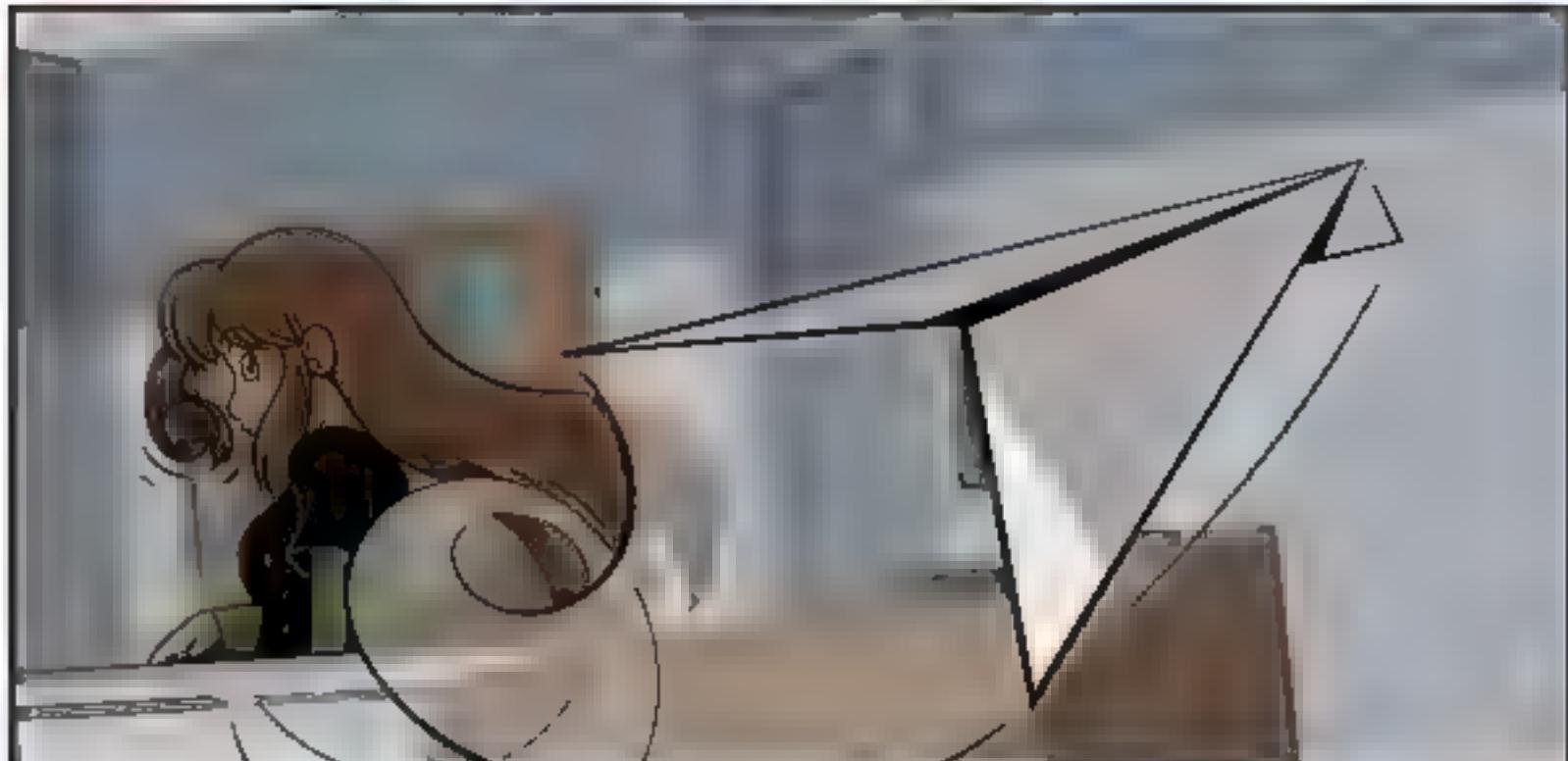
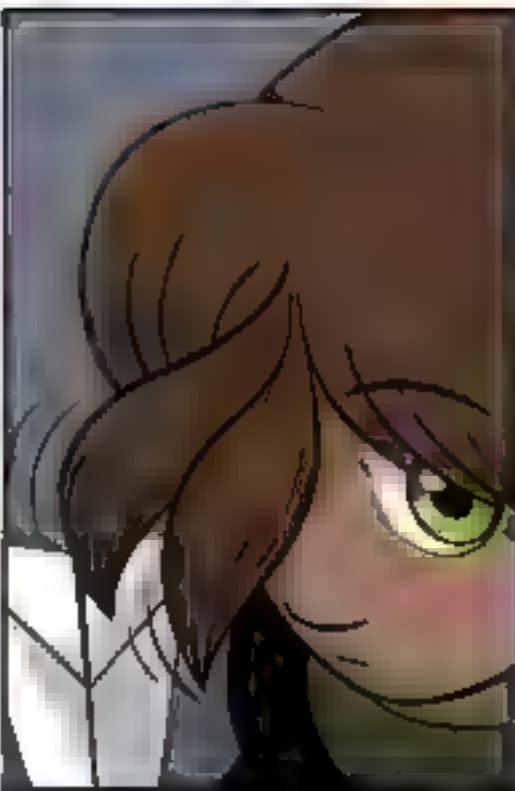
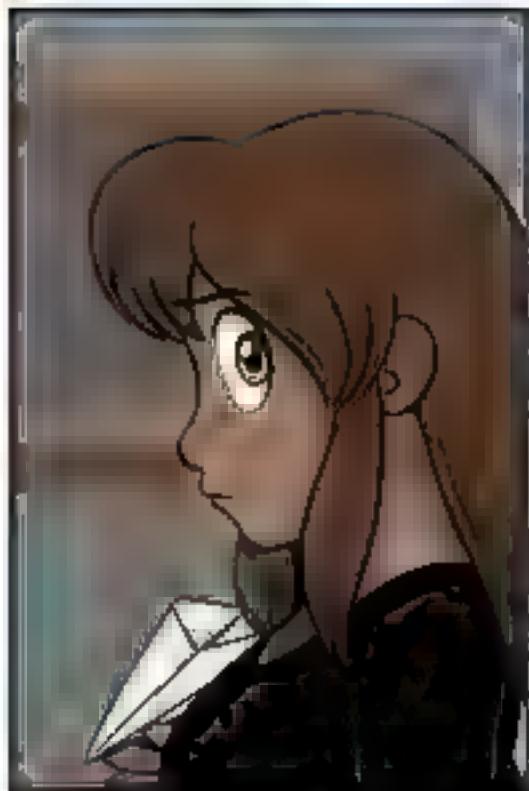
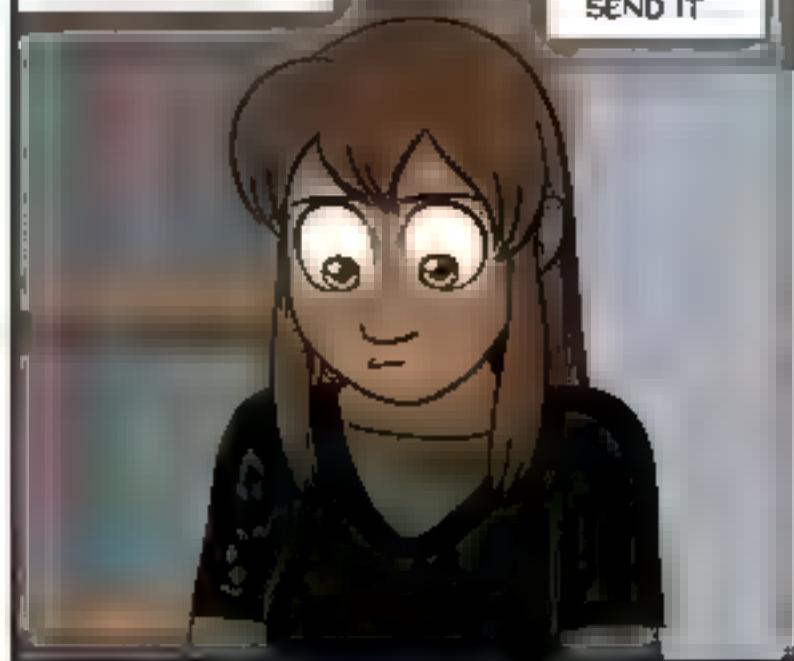


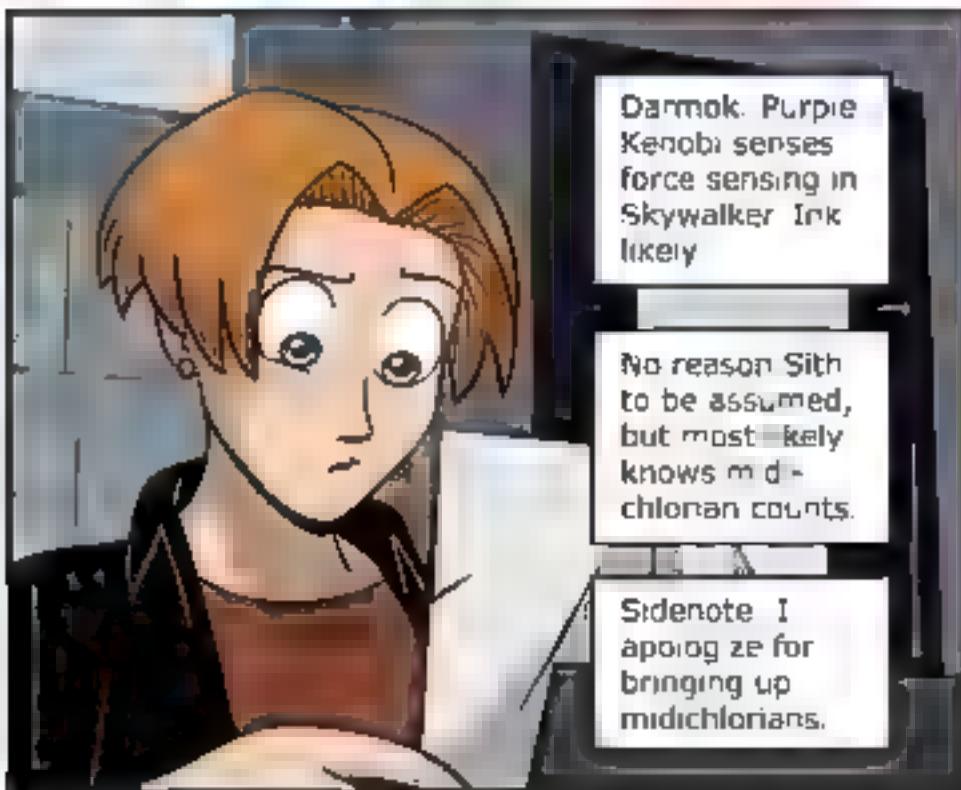
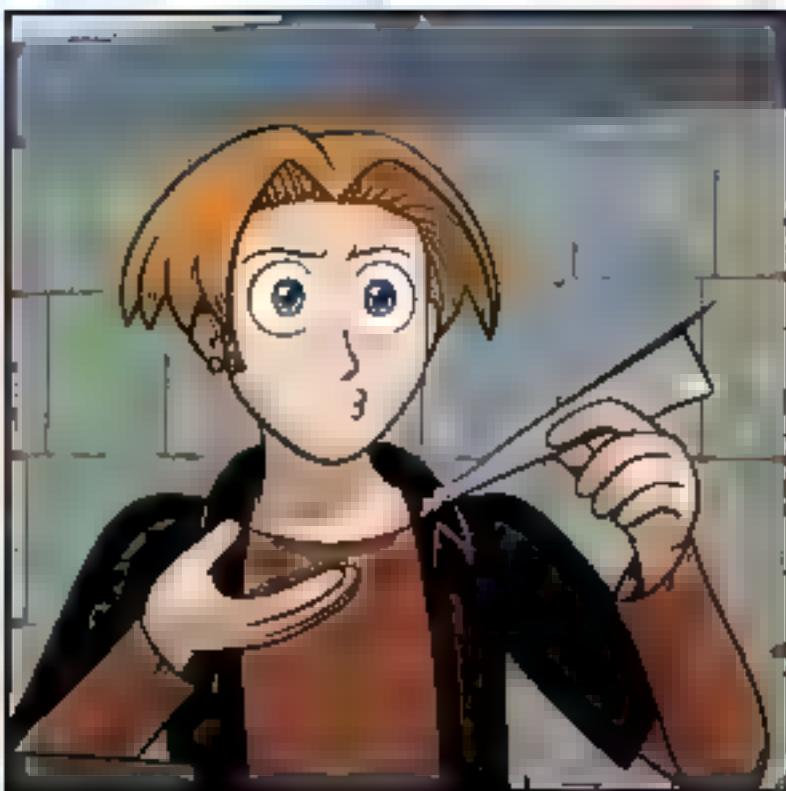
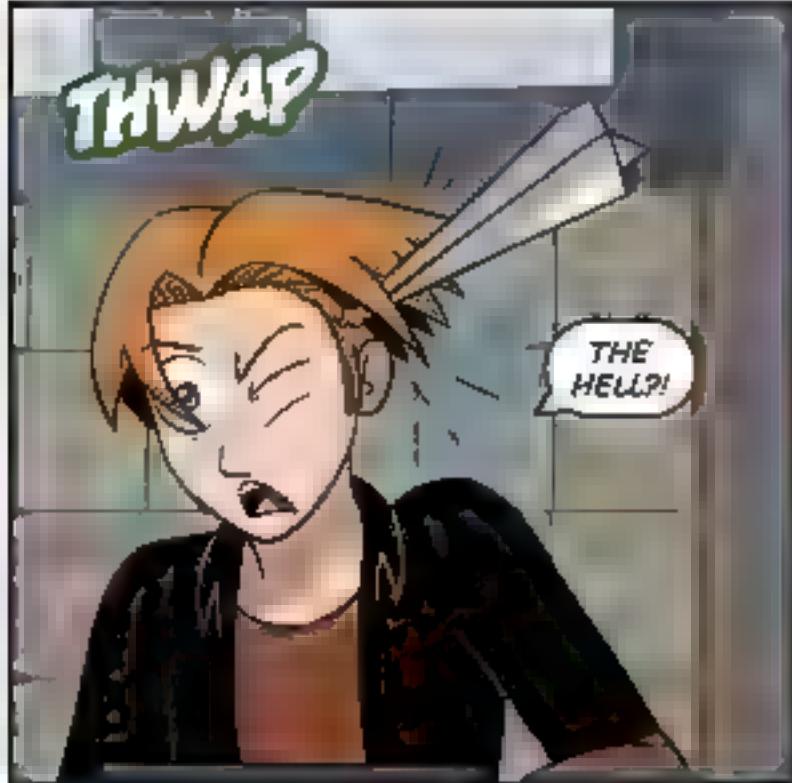
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE DO KNOW AND IT WOULD BE A DICK MOVE NOT TO TELL JUSTIN BEFORE HE TALKS TO LUKE!

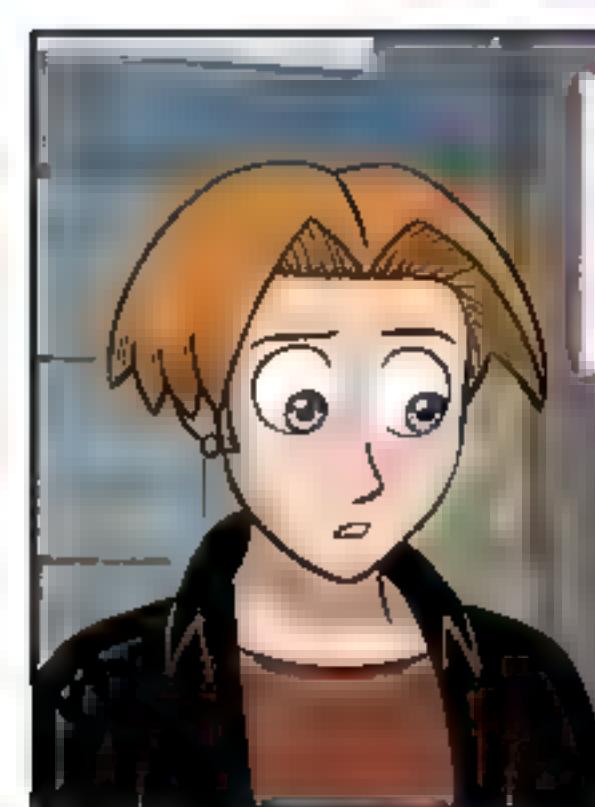
WHATEVER A "DICK MOVE" IS, BUT I'M ASSURED IT'S BAD.

OKAY THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE CODED ENOUGH TO RISK GIVING TO JUSTIN.

NOW TO DISCREETLY SEND IT







THE POOR GUY GETS A MAGIC MARK OUT OF NOWHERE. SEES WHO KNOWS WHAT TRIES TO GET SOME ANSWERS. SEES ABSURD ALIEN HYBRID MAGIC POWER.

AND THEN GATHERS THE NERVE TO COME BACK BECAUSE HE NEEDS ANSWERS THAT BADLY?



I JUST WANT TO HUG HIM!

FOR ADDITIONAL REASONS. I MEAN.



HEY UH. MY MATCH RESULTS.

HM? OH. SURE HOW'D YOU DO?



WON TWO OUT OF THREE. UM...

YOU'RE GAY RIGHT?



UH... YEAH. I'M GAY THAT'S SORT OF MY BUSINESS, BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY A SECRET

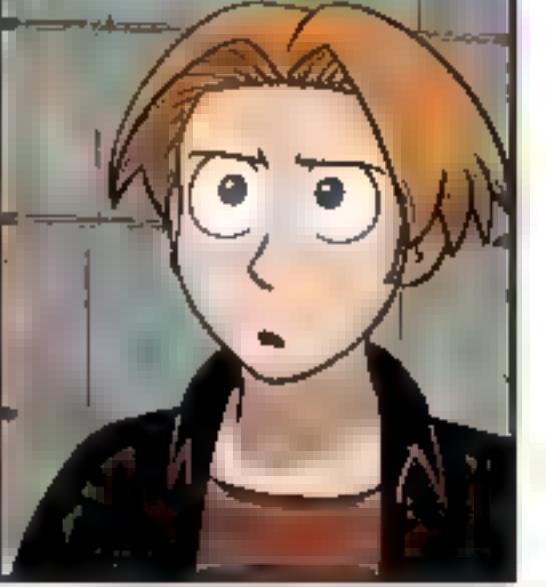


RIGHT. RIGHT. NOT TRYING TO BE RUDE, BUT AH...

BUT WHAT?



YOU'RE COOL WITH PEOPLE SAYING "THAT'S GAY" AND STUFF RIGHT? LIKE, YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE SAYING IT DON'T REALLY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH GAY PEOPLE?



WHAT AM I THINKING? HE'S TEDDY! HE PROBABLY TURNED A TOY FROM A KID'S MEAL INTO A RADAR FOR MAGIC OR SOMETHING.

GRACE WOULDN'T FLING THIS AT ME IF THEY WEREN'T SURE

HELLO! YOU HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT?

OH, NO JUST . CHECKING STUFF OUT UH.

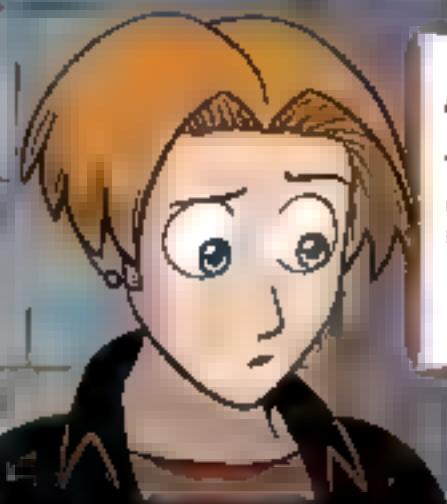


IF LUKE IS LIKE DEX, HE WAS GIVEN A MARK WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE..

WHICH MEANS AT SOME POINT LUKE FOUND HIMSELF ABLE TO SENSE MAGIC AND NO CLUE WHY

MEANWHILE I'M THAT GUY WHO FOUGHT A FIRE DUDE ALONGSIDE A SUPER HERO.

A MOST LIKELY GOOD GUY WITH WEIRD POWER.



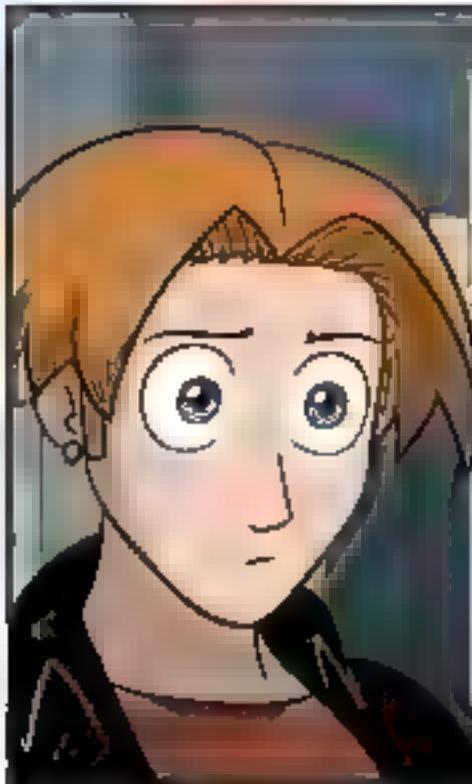
WITH ALL THE AMBIENT MAGIC AND SOMETHING RUNNING AROUND GIVING PEOPLE MARKS, WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S SENSED?



HE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT HE CAME HERE TO SEE IF I REALLY HAD MAGIC.

HE WAS PROBABLY HOPING TO FIND SOME ANSWERS.

AND GOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR WITH GRACE, THE MOST RIDICULOUSLY OVERPOWERED PERSON IN MOPERVILLE.



YOU MAY AS WELL MAKE YOUR MOVE! THE RESOURCES OF THE FOREST WILL SOON RUN OUT! SOMEHOW!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "RUN OUT OF RESOURCES"?

I'M NOT SURE HOW THAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH A FOREST, BUT I'M TRYING TO STICK TO A NARRATIVE!

UH, YOUR DECK? IF YOU HAVE TO DRAW A CARD, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY CARDS LEFT IN YOUR DECK, YOU LOSE

WITH OUR TURN ORDER, YOU'LL RUN OUT OF YOUR FORTY CARDS FIRST AND I'LL WIN.

YOU NEED TO WIN WITHIN YOUR NEXT TWO TURNS.

BUT I HAVE A FORTY-TWO CARD DECK

WHAT

THE MINIMUM DECK SIZE IS FORTY, AND I COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT TO TAKE OUT SO. UH.

FORTY-TWO, HEH?

OKAY THEN...

TIME IS ALMOST UP IN THE ROUND AND I CAN'T END THIS STALEMATE IN A WAY THAT I'LL WIN.

BUT I CAN STILL GO OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY!

WAIT! NO BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED! IT DOESN'T NEED TO START NOW!

IT'S MY DUTY TO REMOVE AS MANY FIENDS FROM THIS FOREST AS I CAN.

YOU SAID THIS COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED WITH COMBAT. BUT YOU WERE WRONG!

THERE CAN BE PEACE

I OFFER A TRUCE. A DRAW

A DRAW? BUT.. EVEN IF I ATTACK, YOU'LL STILL WIN.

YEAH BY TOTAL DUMB LUCK THIS WHOLE GAME WAS EVEN. LET'S END IT AS SUCH.

I AGREE TO THE  
TRUCE BUT NOT  
TO THE DRAW

I CONCEDE.

BUT

YOU WON THIS GAME  
FAIR AND SQUARE A  
DRAW COULD AFFECT  
YOUR Winnings. YOU  
MIGHT WIN SOME  
PACKS THIS WAY

OH. WE  
COULD... SPLIT THE  
Winnings.

THE SPOILS ARE YOURS.  
THOSE ARE MY TERMS  
FOR THIS TRUCE

WELL UH.  
OKAY THEN.  
THANK YOU

**THAT'S TIME IN ROUND!**

FFFFF

SO WHAT  
HAPPENS NOW? IS  
THIS A DRAW?

WE HAVE FIVE MORE TURNS  
TO FINISH THIS GAME IF  
NEITHER OF US HAS WON  
BY THE END OF THOSE FIVE  
TURNS. THEN IT'S A DRAW

OH, GOOD. FIVE TURNS.  
FIFTY MINUTES WASN'T  
LONG ENOUGH, BUT FIVE  
TURNS? THAT'LL DO IT

WELL, WHAT DO  
YOU EXPECT WHEN  
YOUR DECK IS AS  
SLOW AS YOURS?

AS SLOW AS MINE? YOUR  
DECK IS LIKE A GLACIER! JUST  
CANCELING AND ENCHANTING  
EVERYTHING AND NEGATING  
ATTACKS...

THAT'S  
WHAT  
YOUR DECK  
DOES

WELL  
SO DOES  
YOURS!

HUH. DID WE

BASICALLY MAKE  
THE SAME DECK?

YEAH

THAT IS SO  
ANNOYING.

I WAS  
BUTTERFLY KNOTS  
WHEN YOU  
WENT ALONG  
WITH MY  
NARRATIVE

I'M ACCUSTOMED  
TO ROLEPLAYING I  
PRETTY MUCH PLAY A  
ROLE EVERY DAY

OH REALLY?  
YOU'RE NOT  
PLAYING ONE  
NOW, ARE  
YOU?

NO. FRIDAY NIGHTS  
ARE WHEN I'M AT  
MY MOST REAL.

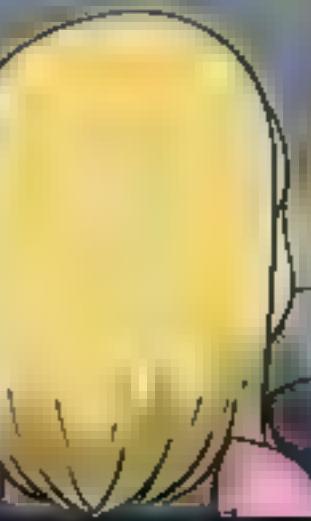


NO THIS  
WAS MY FIRST  
TOURNAMENT

DAMN. YOU DID WELL  
EVEN BY NON-NEWBIE  
STANDARDS

WELL, THANKS,  
I... GOT GOOD  
ADVICE FROM MY  
FRIENDS AND  
GEORGE I GUESS  
GEORGE IS A  
FRIEND?

HE GAVE YOU  
SOLID ADVICE THAT'S  
LIKE A BIG HUG IN  
GEORGE-SPEAK



OH HECK YEAH!  
BUUUT PROBABLY  
NOT NEXT  
WEEK I'M, UH,  
STILL ON AN  
ALLOWANCE,  
SO...

SAME I'M USUALLY  
HERE EVERY OTHER WEEK.  
I JUST SORT OF WANDER  
ON MY OFF WEEKS

SO...  
WE'RE BOTH  
FREE NEXT  
FRIDAY?



ARE ARE YOU  
ASKING ME OUT  
ON A DATE?

I DON'T KNOW IF I'D  
CALL IT A DATE, I. I THINK  
WE COULD HAVE FUN AND  
GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER  
BETTER. IT DOESN'T HAVE  
TO GO ANYWHERE.

BUT  
IT COULD  
GO SOME-  
WHERE?

I'M NOT DISMISSING  
THE POSSIBILITY BUT  
I'M JUST SUGGESTING  
WE GO SOMEWHERE  
TOGETHER ON A  
FRIDAY NIGHT AND.

OKAY YEAH.  
THIS IS TOTALLY  
SOUNDING LIKE A  
DATE. I'M SORRY I  
DIDN'T MEAN TO  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
UNCOMFORTABLE

NO NO IT'S FINE! YOU'RE  
JUST ASKING IF I'D LIKE  
TO DO SOMETHING NEXT  
WEEK AFTER WE'D  
ALREADY HIT IT OFF

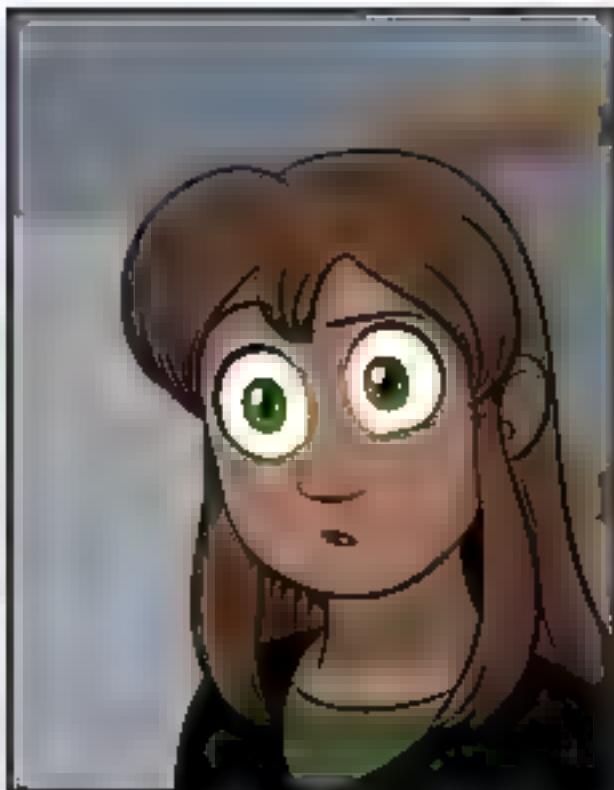
HEH. IMAGINE  
SOMEONE DOING  
THAT YOU THINK  
WE HIT IT OFF?

WELL. YEAH.  
DON'T YOU?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE HITTING  
ON ME DURING A GAME AFTER WE'D  
JUST MET OR SOMETHING.

I'M ASKING  
YOU OUT ON  
WHAT FUTURE  
HISTORIANS MAY  
OR MAY NOT CALL  
A "DATE" SO...

YOU KNOW WHAT?  
YEAH. LET'S DO SOME-  
THING NEXT FRIDAY



ALONE?  
BUT

THE VERY FIRST  
THING LUKE ASKED  
ME WAS IF I WAS  
THAT GUY WHO  
KICKED THE FIRE  
DUDE INTO A RIVER.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE CAME HERE TO SEE  
ME IN THE FIRST PLACE AND ALMOST LOST  
HIS NERVE AFTER SENSING YOUR POWER.

BUT WHY WOULD  
THAT BE A REASON  
TO SEE YOU?

IMAGINE YOU  
SUDDENLY GET A  
STRANGE SYMBOL  
ON YOU THAT YOU  
CAN'T EXPLAIN.

AND START  
SEEING WHO ELSE  
CAN DO MAGIC IN  
A TOWN FULL OF  
EXCESS MAGIC AND  
SOMETHING GIVING  
PEOPLE MAGIC  
ABILITIES.

IF YOU KNEW OF SOMEONE WHO PROBABLY  
HAD MAGIC AND WAS A CONFIRMED GOOD GUY  
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK TO THEM?

YOU'RE A  
"CONFIRMED  
GOOD GUY"?

I FOUGHT A FIRE  
DUDE ALONGSIDE  
A SUPER HERO!  
GOOD GUY

JUSTIN THERE'S NO  
REASON TO ASSUME  
HE'S A BAD GUY BUT  
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE  
ISN'T AND WE DON'T  
KNOW THAT HE HAS A  
MARK OR IF SENSING IS  
HIS ONLY ABILITY!

I'M NOT TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEING  
DANGEROUS. HE'S WAY TOO SKITTISH TO MAKE  
ME THINK HE'S GOT A SUCKER PUNCH READY

I'M SKITTISH!  
TOUCHÉ

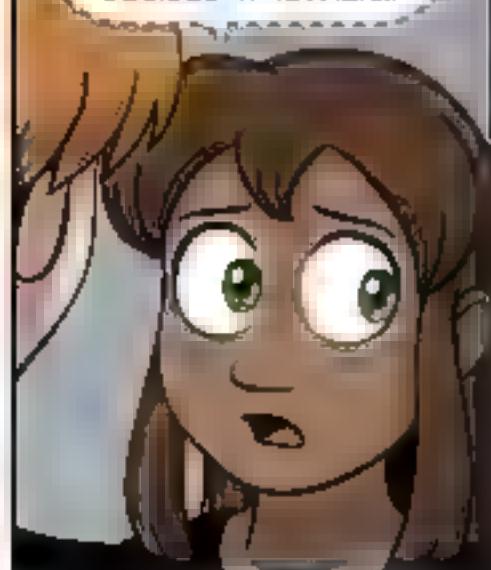
IT'S A RISK I'M WILLING TO TAKE. I THINK HE'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE JUST TALKING TO ME

BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, YOU'RE STILL PROTECTING ME

BUT SARAH, TEDD, AND I TALKED ABOUT TALKING TO HIM, BUT WE HADN'T ACTUALLY DECIDED WHETHER...



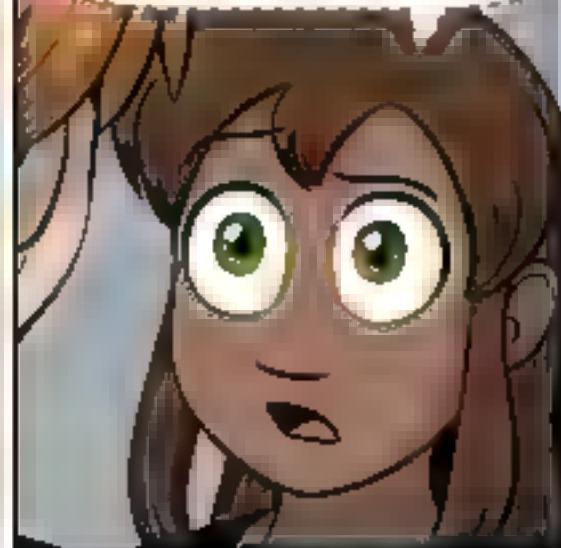
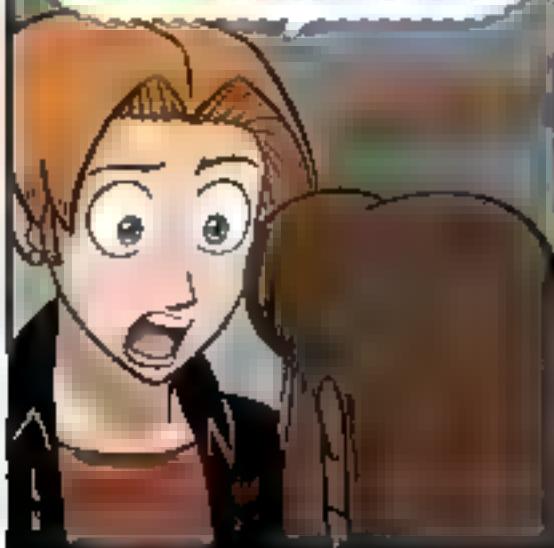
HE KNOWS WE'RE FRIENDS, AND HE CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT ON YOUR BAD SIDE



YOU WERE THINKING OF NOT TALKING TO HIM? THE POOR GUY ALREADY KNOWS WHO HAS MAGIC, AND HE'S PROBABLY IN THE DARK BEYOND THAT. HE NEEDS ANSWERS.

OKAY, BUT HOW MANY ANSWERS? ARE YOU PLANNING TO TELL HIM ALL ABOUT HOW MAGIC WORKS? HOW HE MIGHT AWAKEN MORE POWER? WHAT I AM? HOW YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

...OKAY YEAH THOSE ARE GOOD QUESTIONS. UM...



I'LL SAY I CAN'T REVEAL MY SOURCE BECAUSE IT WOULD BETRAY A TRUST

AND I... STICK TO MAGIC MARKS, AND THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MAGIC WITHOUT ELABORATION, AND UH...

WHICH IS ALL TOTALLY TRUE SO I WOULDN'T EVEN BE LYING!

ACTUALLY WE'RE PRETTY SURE THAT CREEPY LITTLE GIRL FROM THE NEWS IS BEHIND THE MARKS



THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MARKS ARE COMING FROM.



**4TH PLACE WINNERS RECEIVE  
ONE PACK OF CARDS!**



**3RD PLACE WINNERS RECEIVE  
THREE PACKS OF CARDS!**



**2ND PLACE WINS FIVE  
PACKS OF CARDS!**



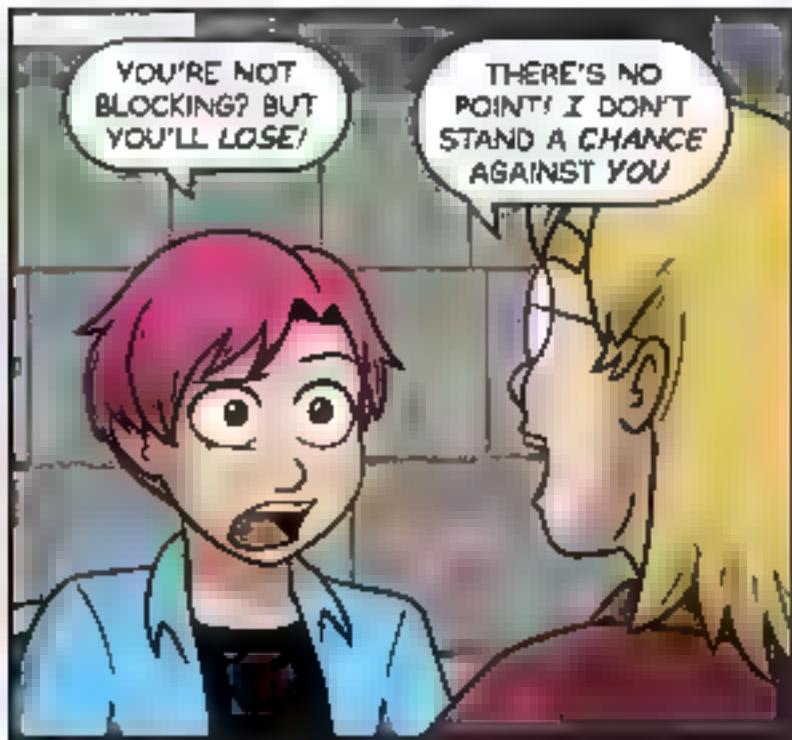
**GRAND PRIZE WINNER**  
**Some Guy**



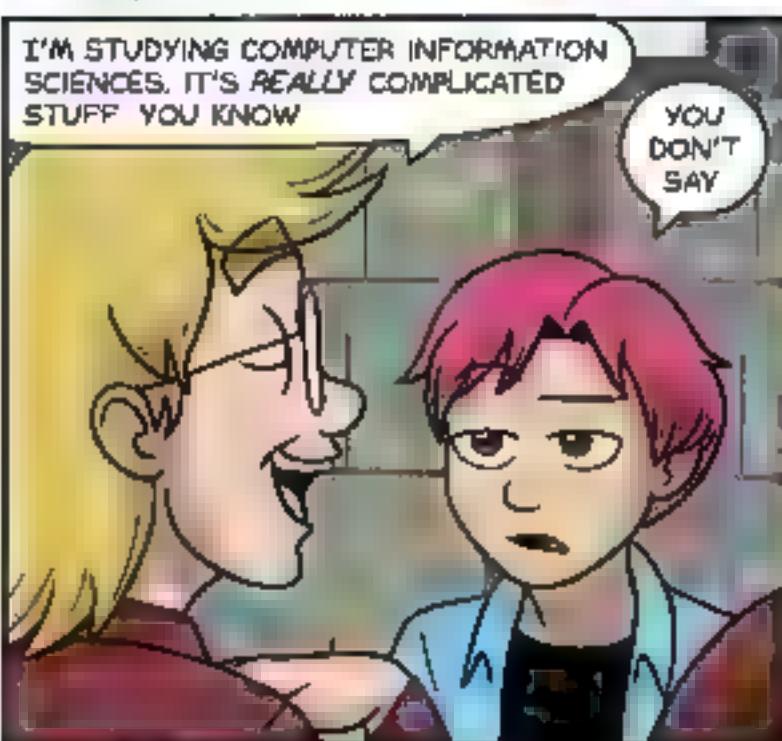
Game 1, turn 2



Game 1, turn 10



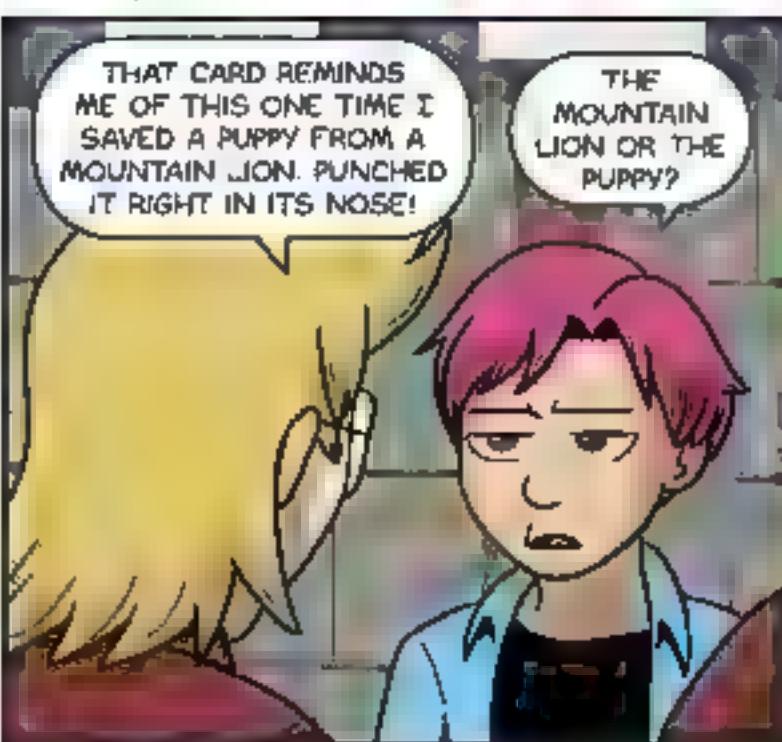
Game 2, turn 2



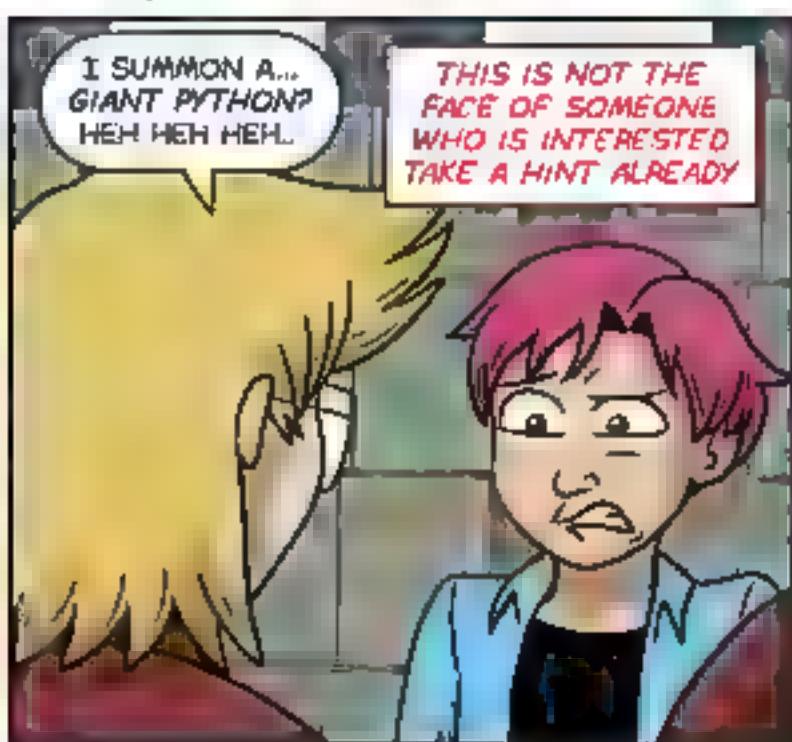
Game 2, turn 4



Game 2, turn 7



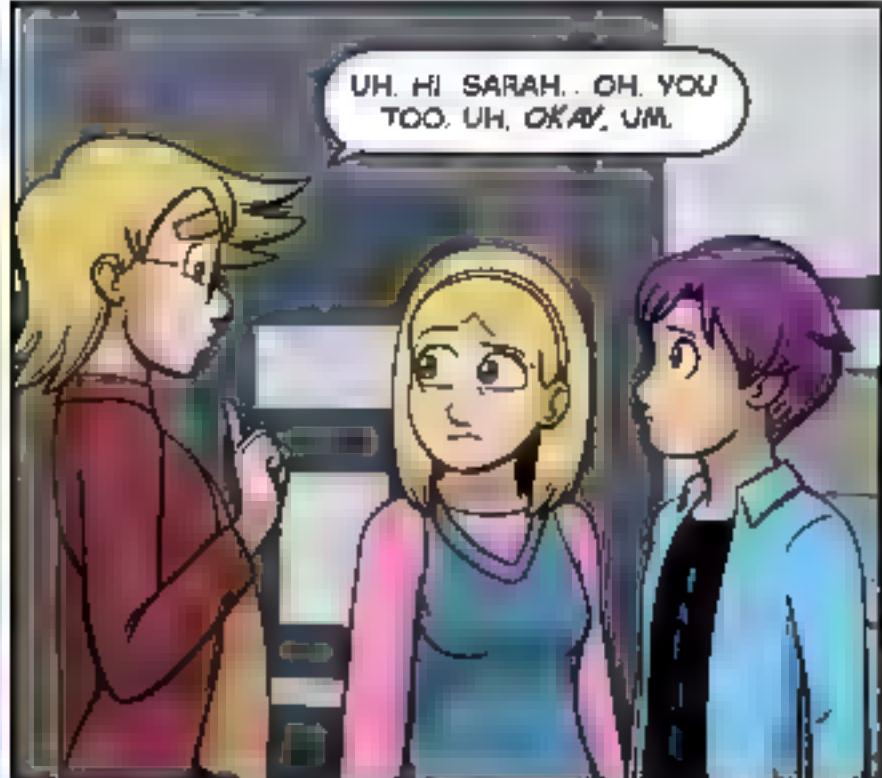
Game 2, turn 8



SO HOW EXACTLY ARE PLACES DECIDED?

I THINK IT HAS TO DO WITH WIN TOTALS FOR BOTH ROUNDS AND GAMES? JUSTIN WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN. UH-OH

UH. HI SARAH.. OH. YOU TOO. UH. OKAY. UM.



I'M SORRY ABOUT HOW I ACTED DURING OUR GAMES IT'S SORTA POSSIBLE THERE'S STUFF I'M DUMB ABOUT..

AND I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE WEIRD AT FUTURE TOURNAMENTS. I'LL BE BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

UH.  
WOW LARRY THAT'S...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'VE SAID PLENTY OF DUMB STUFF IN THE PAST MYSELF

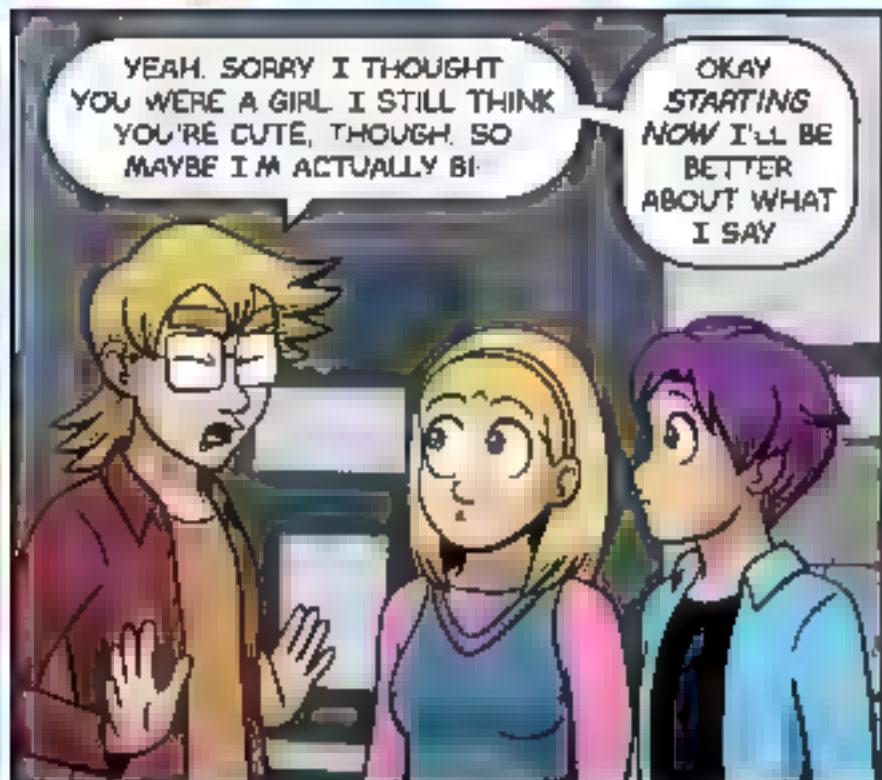


WAIT... HE HIT ON YOU, TOO?

WELL...

YEAH. SORRY I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL. I STILL THINK YOU'RE CUTE, THOUGH. SO MAYBE I'M ACTUALLY BI-

OKAY STARTING NOW I'LL BE BETTER ABOUT WHAT I SAY



HEY AH. I'M  
HEADING HOME.  
WE'LL TEXT?

YEAH. COOL.  
SEE YOU NEXT  
WEEK!

SOUNDS GREAT!

WHAT THE  
HELL AM I  
DOING

OH. SO, UH,  
YOU'LL BE BACK  
NEXT WEEK?

UH...

I THOUGHT  
WE WEREN'T  
GOING TO PLAY  
NEXT WEEK

WE'RE AH  
NOT COMING  
HERE

...OH.

WAIT.. ARE  
YOU TWO GOING  
ON A DATE?

IT'S NOT  
A DATE!

I MEAN IT'S  
NOT NOT A DATE.  
BUT IT'S NOT  
NECESSARILY A...

IT IS A  
THING THAT IS  
HAPPENING

I CAN'T BELIEVE  
HE APOLOGIZED THAT  
NEVER HAPPENS.

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE YOU  
GOT A DATE

IT'S ONLY MAYBE  
A DATE! ALSO, CARE  
TO REPHRASE THAT?

LOOK  
WHERE WE  
ARE RIGHT  
NOW

HUH, OKAY  
YEAH, I WOULD  
NOT HAVE  
CALLED THAT

THWAP

THE  
HELL?!

WHAT'S--  
GAH!

WHOOSH

WHAT  
THE...

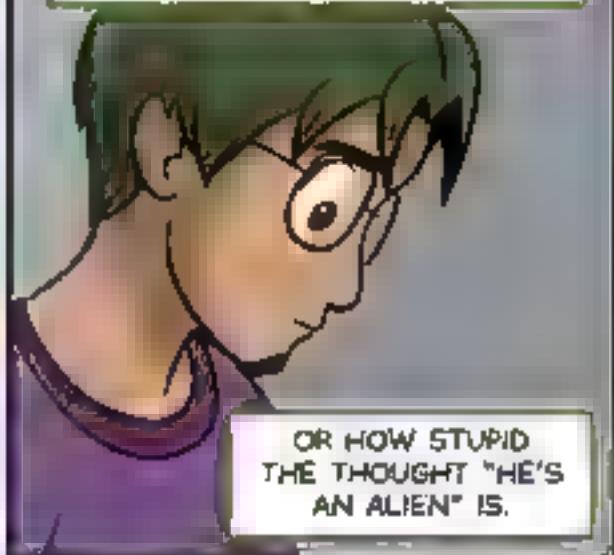
"GUYS  
GUYS  
GUYS!"

I THINK SHE  
MIGHT WANT  
SOMETHING.

THAT SURE IS SOME PURPLE HAIR ON PINK-HAIRED GUY

AND, OF COURSE MY RATIONAL ARGUMENT FOR WHY THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM AN ALIEN IS "IT COULD BE MAGIC"

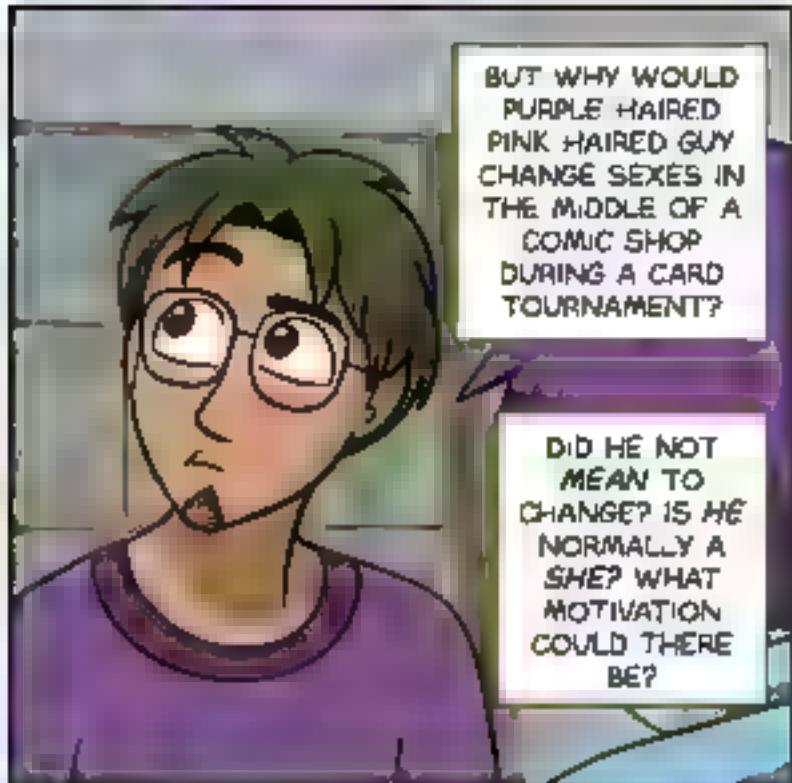
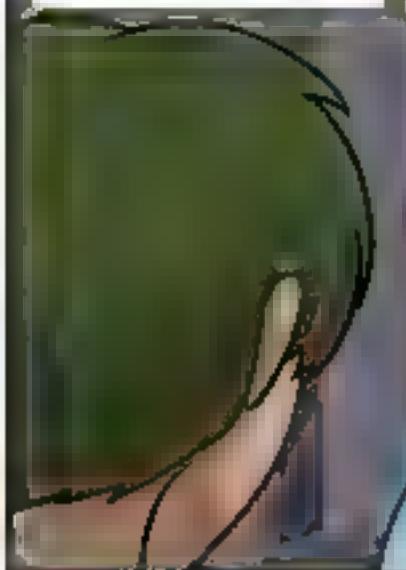
CARD GAMES. FOCUS ON CARD GAMES IT'D BE STUPID TO RISK SEEING THAT FLASH AGAIN JUST NOW, AND THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW IF HE'S AN ALIEN.



I GUESS I'M NOT EVEN SURE HE'S A "HE". THAT GUY SAID PINK HAIR GUY WAS A GIRL EARLIER.

THAT BLUE-HAIRED GUY DOESN'T SEEM THAT BRIGHT, BUT IF MAGIC CAN CHANGE HAIR, WHY NOT SEX?

OR HOW STUPID THE THOUGHT "HE'S AN ALIEN" IS.



BUT WHY WOULD PURPLE HAIR PINK HAIR GUY CHANGE SEXES IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMIC SHOP DURING A CARD TOURNAMENT?

DID HE NOT MEAN TO CHANGE? IS HE NORMALLY A SHE? WHAT MOTIVATION COULD THERE BE?



HELLO, JUSTIN. I HAVE BOUNCY BOOBS!

THAT... THAT'S A THING STRAIGHT GUYS LIKE, RIGHT? BOUNCING? THAT'S THE APPEAL?

IT'S PROBABLY NOT HEALTHY TO FANTASIZE ABOUT CHANGING MYSELF IN A WAY I WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEDUCE STRAIGHT MEN.



BEATS WONDERING IF THIS GUY'S AN ALIEN, AT LEAST

OOO

UH. THESE VAMPIRES  
WISH TO REFORM! THE  
WEREWOLVES ARE  
HELPING THEM!

THE WEREWOLVES ARE  
FOOLS, THEN. VAMPIRES ARE  
NOT EVIL BY CHOICE THEY ARE  
COMPELLED TO HURT PEOPLE BY  
THEIR VERY NATURE

NO ONE IS  
PERFECT "BY  
NATURE!"

MY VAMPIRES WANT  
TO DEFY THEIR NATURE  
AND MAKE AMENDS FOR  
PAST MISDEEDS!

EVEN IF TRUE I  
CANNOT TRUST  
THEIR SINCERITY

THEIR NATURE  
SHALL STILL  
COMPEL THEM  
TO DO EVIL.

THIS CAN ONLY BE  
RESOLVED THROUGH  
COMBAT THERE IS  
NO OTHER WAY

HOW CAN YOU  
KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE WE'RE  
PLAYING A CARD GAME  
IN A TOURNAMENT

OH! UH.  
RIGHT HEH.

FRANKLY NO, I  
DON'T KNOW THAT

PLENTY OF PEOPLE  
WHO USE "GAY" AS AN  
INSULT REALLY DO  
HAVE A PROBLEM WITH  
GAY PEOPLE

UH.. SOME PEOPLE SURE.  
BUT FOR OTHER PEOPLE  
IT'S JUST SOMETHING  
THEY SAY, RIGHT? IT'S  
JUST AN EXPRESSION?

PEOPLE PICK UP EXPRESSIONS FROM OTHER PEOPLE,  
AND I'M SURE PLENTY OF PEOPLE DON'T MEAN TO  
INSULT GAY PEOPLE, BUT THEY'RE DOING SO ANYWAY

WOULD  
YOU LIKE IT  
IF PEOPLE  
SAID 'THAT'S  
LARRY' AND  
ASSOCIATED  
"LARRY" WITH  
BAD THINGS?

UH NO.  
I.. YEAH, THAT  
WOULD SUCK

WOW. SAYING  
GAY TO SAY STUFF  
IS BAD IS GAY

I MEAN, UH.. SORRY!  
IT'S A BAD HABIT I'LL  
WORK ON IT.

FANTASTIC.

DID.. DID I JUST  
FAINTLY OVERHEAR  
JUSTIN SAY HE'S.. ?

UM. DUDE? I FROZE  
YOUR DIRE PENGUIN,  
NOT YOU.

WHAT'S WITH THE AERIAL ASSAULT?

JUSTIN'S PLANNING TO TALK TO LUKE ABOUT MAGIC' ALONE!

WHAT? BUT I MEAN.

WITHOUT US HERE FOR EXTRA MUSCLE?!

WITHOUT YOU HERE FOR EXTRA MUSCLE

JUSTIN THINKS LUKE CAME HERE TO TALK TO HIM BECAUSE OF THE FIRE DUDE FIGHT

HE SET SOME GOOD LIMITS ABOUT WHAT HE TELL LUKE YO'D APPROVE TEDD

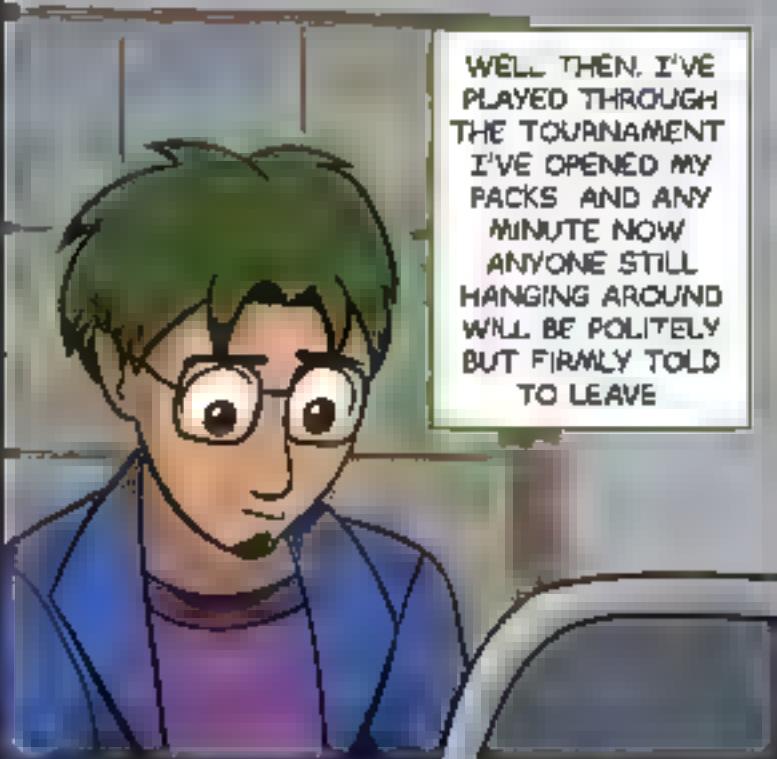
WITH THE LIMITS I MEAN IF NOT THE WHOLE "TALK TO LUKE" PART

I TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT ON THAT BUT I DUNNO. THIS MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO STOP HIM?

I THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT HE MUST HAVE EXTENDED THE INVITATION BY NOW

"YOU'VE GOT MAGIC ON YOU" NO... "YOU EVER READ HARRY POTTER?" NO "CAN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT?" YES.

NO



WELL THEN. I'VE PLAYED THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT I'VE OPENED MY PACKS AND ANY MINUTE NOW ANYONE STILL HANGING AROUND WILL BE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY TOLD TO LEAVE



THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE WELL, EXCEPT MAYBE "LOOK" AT THAT TEDD GUY AGAIN, BUT THAT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA. FOR REASONS.

HECK FOR ALL I KNOW. THAT'S ACTUALLY TRUE



I'LL TELL THE GUYS WHAT LITTLE I'VE LEARNED AND WE'LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

HEY LUKE?



EH?



I'M ABOUT TO POLITELY BUT FIRMLY TELL EVERYONE TO LEAVE, BUT I WAS HOPEFUL YOU MIGHT STICK AROUND A BIT SO WE CAN TALK?



TALK ALONE?



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LOVE MAY BLOSSOM, THROUGH CARD GAMES?



W...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

I THINK YOU ORIGINALLY CAME HERE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT MY FIGHT WITH THE FIRE DUDE

THEN I THINK YOU SENSED SOMETHING ABOUT GRACE THAT SPOOKED YOU BUT YOU WANTED ANSWERS ENOUGH TO COME BACK, AND YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO CAREFULLY ASK ME ABOUT STUFF ALL NIGHT

I THINK YOU HAVE QUESTIONS BECAUSE YOU GOT A MAGIC MARK OUT OF NOWHERE ONE DAY WHICH IS HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO SENSE SOMETHING ABOUT GRACE

UH...

THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T TELL YOU WITHOUT BETRAYING OTHER PEOPLE'S TRUST BUT THERE'S A LOT I CAN TELL YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO.

REALLY? YOU'LL JUST TELL ME?

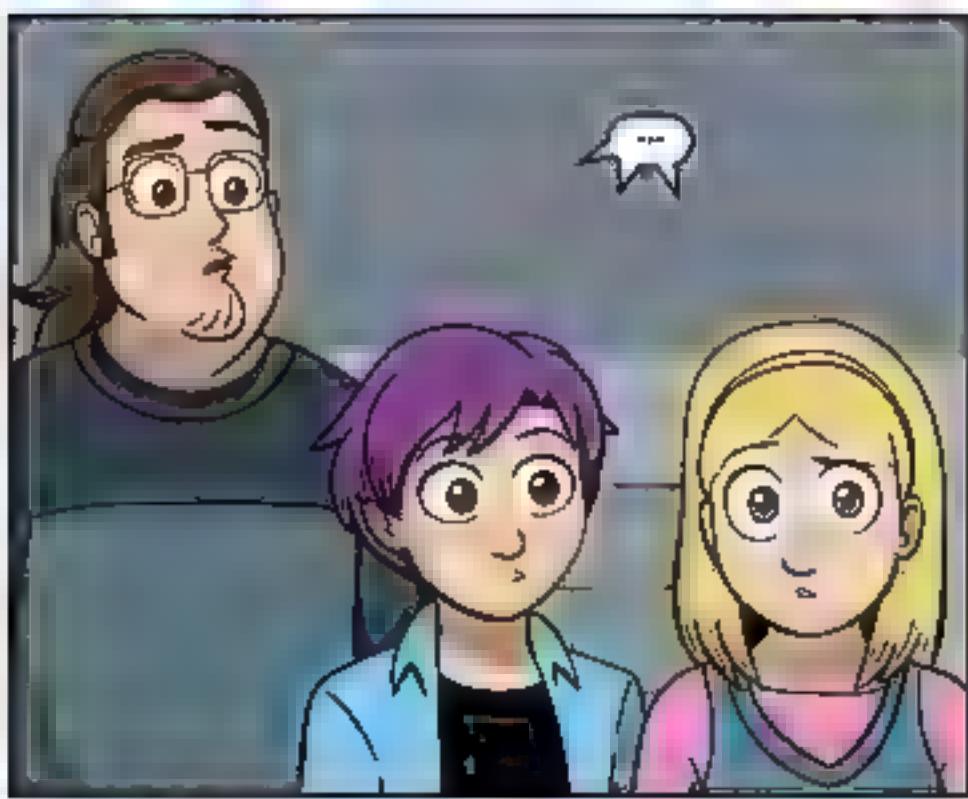
ANYTHING I CAN WITHOUT BREAKING PROMISES. YEAH. WAY I SEE IT YOU DESERVE ANSWERS.

AND THIS IS JUST A FRIENDLY CHAT BETWEEN ME AND YOU? NOBODY'S GETTING KICKED INTO A RIVER?

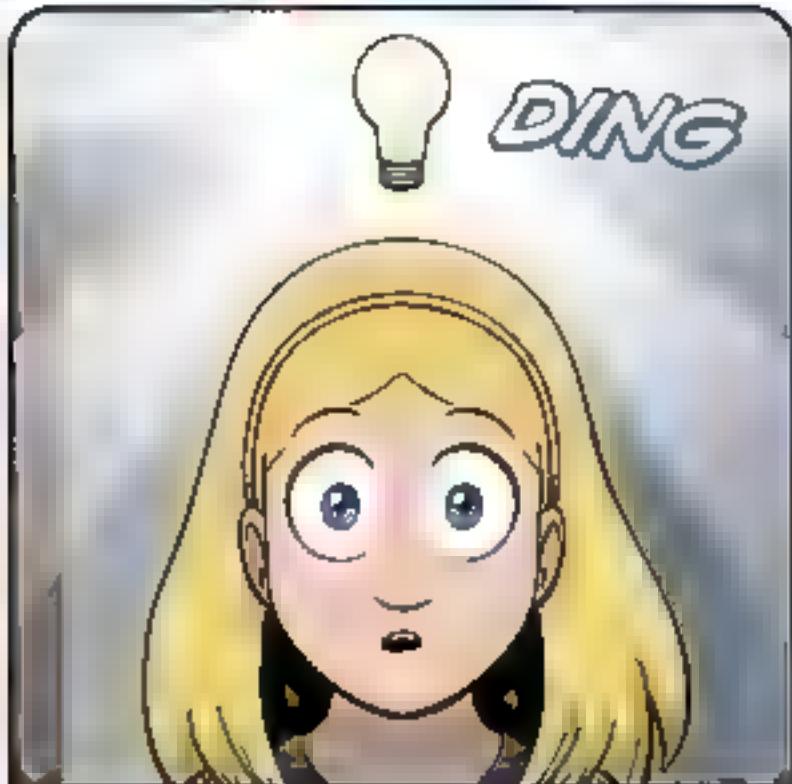
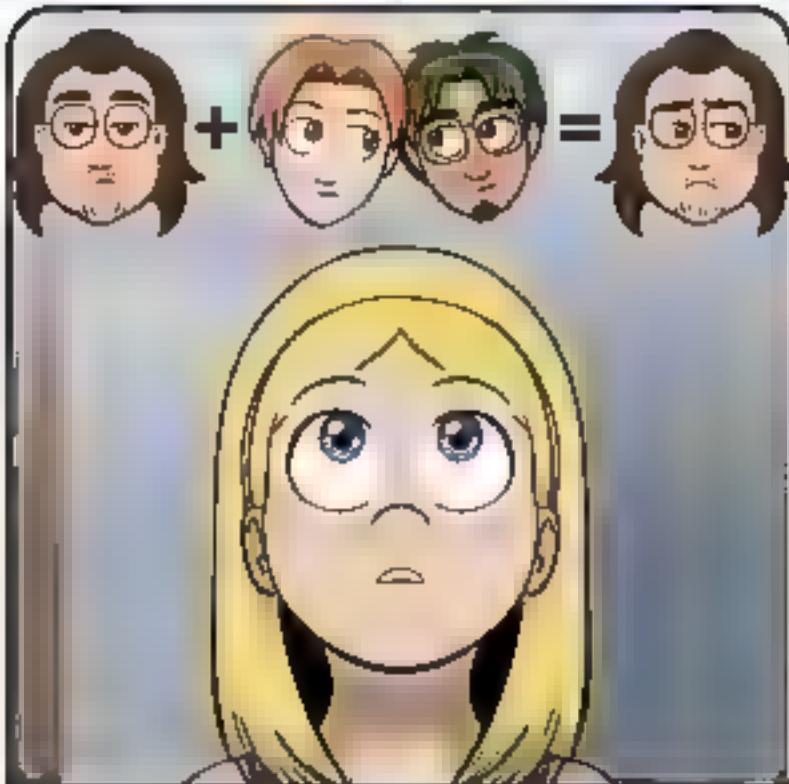
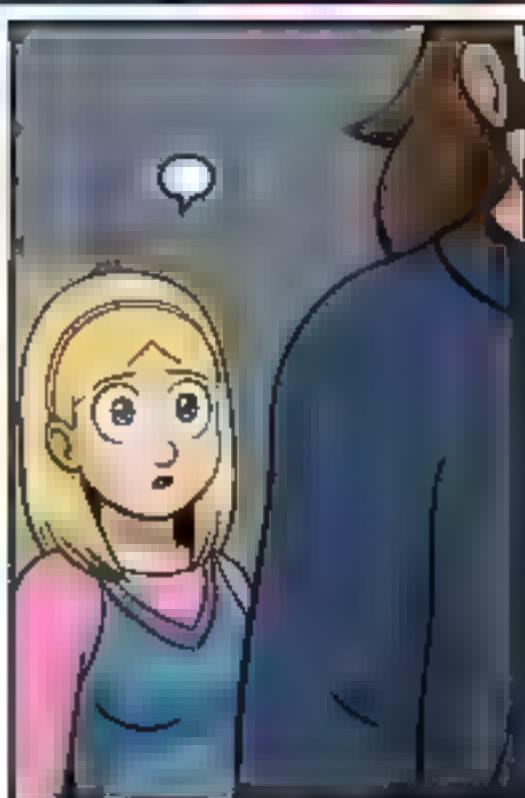
I SWEAR ON MY HONOR AS A FAN OF CAPTAIN PICARD

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU LIKED KIRK

I DO. BUT I'M SWEARING TO PEACEFUL DISCUSSION KIRK WOULD BE FOR SLEEPING WITH GREEN WOMEN OR SOMETHING



**NEW STORY COMICS WILL RESUME DECEMBER 29!**  
**FIND OUT IF GRACE FINDS GEORGE'S COAT THEN!**  
**NEXT WEEK: EGGS:NP, SKETCHBOOKS, AND COMMENTARIES**



DOES GEORGE  
LIKE JUSTIN?

WELL, THAT'S  
EVERYONE BUT  
YOU THREE

YOU THROWING  
US OUT?

NOT EXACTLY.  
BUT... HAS GRACE  
ILLED YOU IN?

YES, SHE  
HAS. AND I'M  
WORRIED IT  
MIGHT BE A  
BAD IDEA.

BAD IDEA OR NOT  
I'VE ALREADY ASKED HIM.  
AND HE'S AGREED TO  
TALK TO ME ALONE

BLAUGH. FINE  
BUT I DON'T WANT TO  
GO TOO FAR IN CASE  
YOU NEED US.

YOU TWO OKAY  
WITH HANGING  
OUT AT THE FAST  
FOOD PLACE NEXT  
DOOR WHILE  
JUSTIN TALKS  
TO LUKE?

OOH. HELL  
YEAH I JUST  
REALIZED HOW  
HUNGRY I AM.

YEAH, IT FEELS LIKE  
OUR DINNER BEFORE  
THE TOURNAMENT WAS  
MONTHS AGO.

JUST SEND A  
TEXT IF YOU NEED  
ME LIKE ANY TEXT  
TEXT A "W" AND I'LL  
WHOOSH OVER.

DON'T  
WORRY GRACE.  
I'LL BE FINE

SURE, SURE... WELL,  
WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY...

**GLARE**

**GLARRR**

I REALLY  
DON'T THINK  
LUKE'S A  
THREAT  
BUT...

YEAH,  
I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
MEAN.

OH  
NUTS!

NUTS?

WHAT  
NUTS?

I NEVER  
ASKED JUSTIN  
ABOUT HIS  
MAGIC MARK.

NEXT STORY COMIC FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND

FROM THE DAY THAT WIZARD ATTACKED? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?

WELL, WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT...

JUSTIN?

TEDD! SORRY!

OH! UH, IT'S OKAY, I--

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

LOOK, IF I DON'T ASK QUICKLY, LUKE MIGHT LEAVE. IS THERE ANY OTHER REASON YOU THINK I SHOULDN'T TALK TO HIM ALONE?

I DON'T THINK SO...

OKAY THEN. I'M GONNA DO IT.

ARE YOU GOING TO ASK HIM OUT, TOO?

THAT'S A SECONDARY CONCERN FOR NOW.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, TEDD. HOW'D YOUR MATCH END?

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY FOR ONE OF US TO WIN!

EVERYTHING'S TOO ENCHANTED! WE'RE ARMED TO THE TEETH WITH DEBUFFED MONSTERS!

A DRAW.

COME ON, WE'RE SMART! I'M SURE THERE'S SOME WAY TO END THIS OTHER THAN

I WON'T ADMIT TO IT, IN ANY CASE.

YOU JUST SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SEDUCE HIM.

I ONLY SAID THAT OTHER GIRL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SEDUCTION IS!

THAT GIRL YOU REFERRED TO AS "THE COMPETITION"?

I'M COMPLICATED!

COME ON, RHODA, LET'S GO.

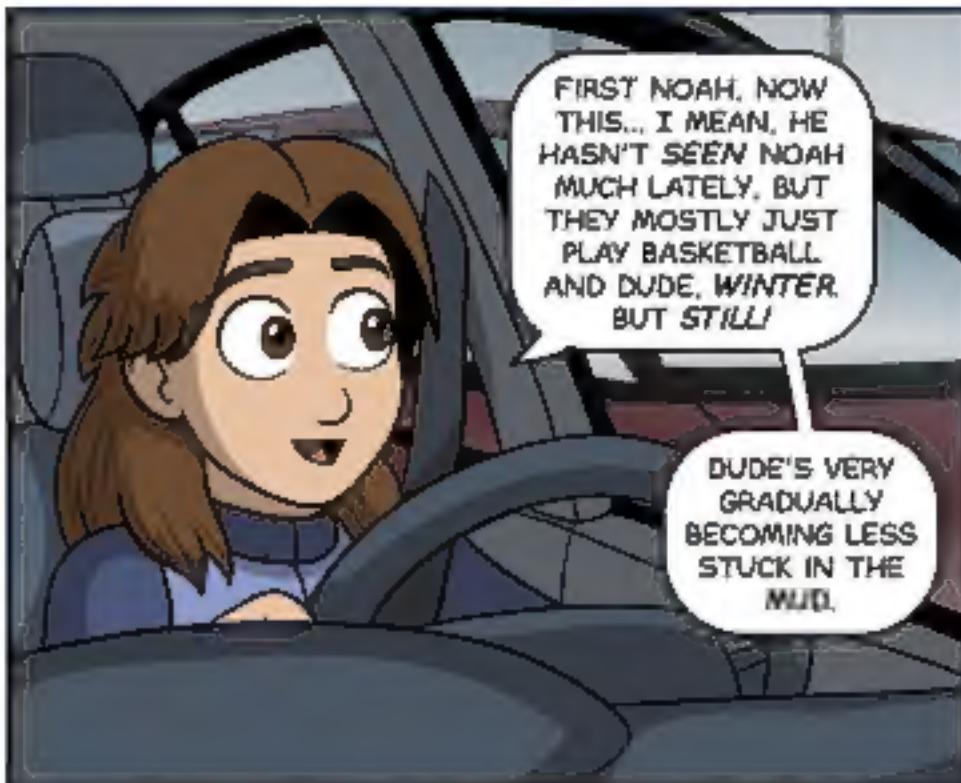
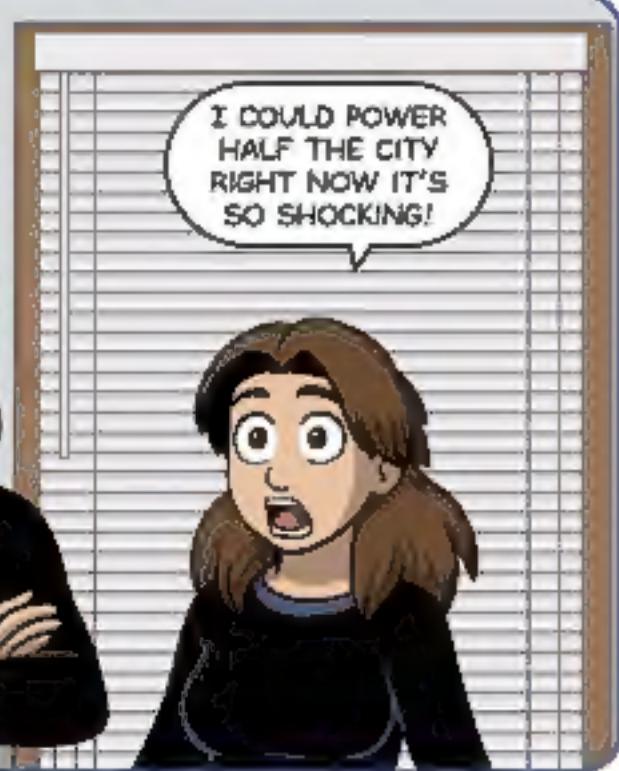
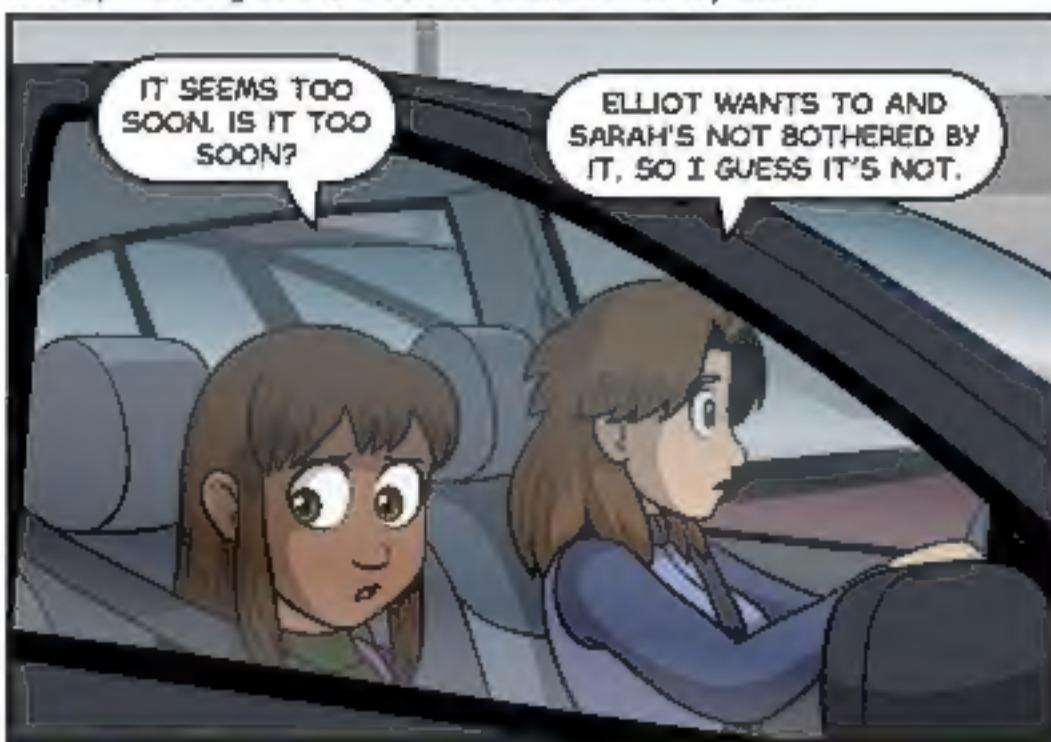
SEE YOU LATER, GRACE.

BYE!

I'M BETTING THE DAY ELLIOT ACTUALLY TRIES TO ATTRACT WOMEN WILL BE THE DAY THEY COLLECTIVELY LOSE INTEREST IN HIM.

HUH?

Friday morning of the week Elliot asked Ashley out...



AFTER ALL THE GRIEF SHE GAVE ME, SHE'S GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE SHE MET AT THE TOURNAMENT?!

MAYBE? SHE DOESN'T SOUND SURE HERSELF.

I TRY HITTING ON HER AND SHE'S ALL LIKE "NUH-UH", BUT THAT GUY HITS ON HER, AND IT WORKS!?

HE PROBABLY DIDN'T HIT ON HER. WHEN HAS THAT EVER WORKED FOR ME?



"THIS ISN'T A SINGLES BAR"... SURE LOOKS LIKE ONE NOW!

SHE'S UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DATE ME. I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE UPSET WITH HER.

DUDE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MY BACK, BRO!

NO I'M NOT! WE'RE DOING THAT "ANGEL AND DEVIL ON THE SHOULDERS" THING!



JUST LET IT GO, DUDE.

THAT'S COOL. SO WE MIGHT GET A REMATCH IN A COUPLE WEEKS?

THE DATE WENT TO THE BETTER MAN.

:SIGH:

